Ann Arbor Observer

December 1999

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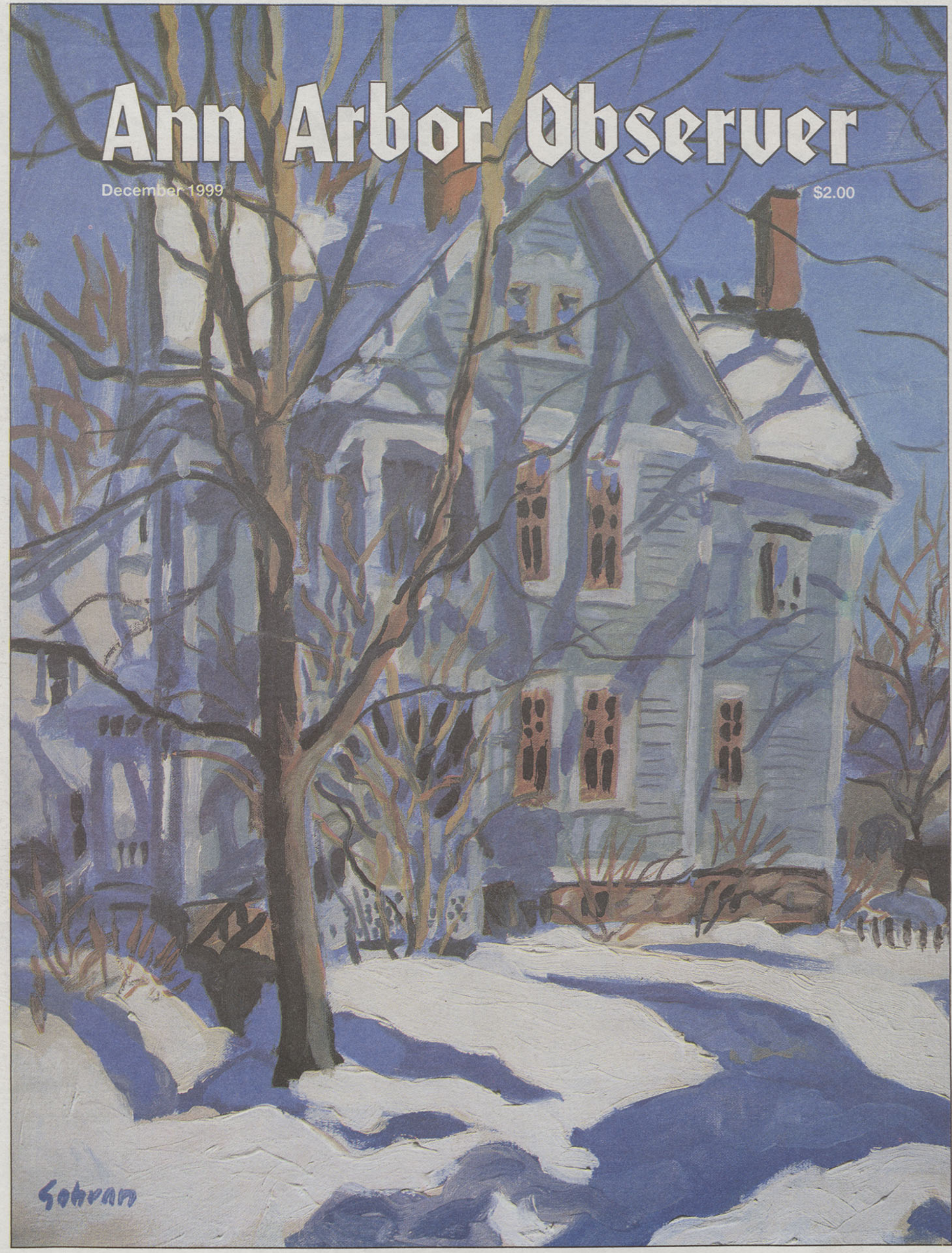

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This Michigan Treat Basket overflows with Hanover Michigan Mints, Carp River Preserves, Germack Gourmet Mixed Nuts, Benjamin Twigg's Dried Cherries, Mackinaw Fudge, Butter Pretzels, St. Julian's Sparkling Fruit Juice, Maple Syrup, American Spoon Apple Butter, Pizzelle Cookies, Candy Fruit Flashers, and Candy Sticks. **$94.99**

What's In the Shape of Michigan?
A wicker basket of course! It is filled with representative Michigan food products: American Spoon Salad Dazzler, Country Chile Con Queso Dip Mix, LeeLanau Coffee, Maple Syrup, Herbal Treasure Rice-Spices-Herbs, Rocky Top Preserves and Fruit Butter, and Benjamin Twigg's Chocolate Covered Red Tart Cherries. **$49.99**

U-M Gourmet
Luscious Chocolate Squares decorated in gold & blue foil with Michigan & Block M's, a bag of M-shaped pasta, a University of Michigan Coffee Mug with U/M Coffee, and Team Spirit Pasta Seasoning. **$41.99**

Michigan Tea Time
Snuggle up to a warm mug of tea and freshly baked muffins when you order this basket full of tea time treasures... Raspberry Honey Crème, Pantry Shelf Muffin Mix, Cherry Republic's Famous Cherry Almond Butter, MacKinlay Tea, Snickerdoodle Cookie Mix, and a Michigan Mug all in a lovely round wicker basket with rope handles. **$54.99**

Michigan Sampler
This basket showcases just a few of the wonderful tastes Michigan has to offer...St. Julian's Sparkling Juice, Gourmet Crisp Crackers, Rocky Top Farm Preserves, Michaelene's Gourmet Granola, and Kettle Roasted Cinnamon Almonds. **$24.99**

Morning in Michigan
There is nothing like waking up and enjoying a sumptuous breakfast which includes Coffee by Coffee Express Company, Maple Syrup, Frankenmuth Pancake Mix, Michaelene's Granola, and Honey Berry Raspberry Spread. **$39.99**

Michigan Favorites
A lovely wicker basket filled with a taste of Michigan's best: Benjamin Twigg's Dried Cherries, Jiffy Muffin Mix, Mackinaw Fudge, Kellogg's Cereal, Maple Syrup, Vernor's Ginger Soda, Sanders Dessert Topping, and American Gourmet Pretzels. **$37.50**

A Taste of Michigan
Linda Brinker, owner of Occasionally Gift Shop, put together this great sampling: Maple Syrup, Carp River Preserve, Mackinaw Fudge, LeeLanau Coffee, Honey Sticks, and Michigan Mints. **$29.99**

Michigan Munchies
Delightful tasty treats overflowing the basket brim: Sander's Nibbler Chocolates, Mackinaw Fudge, Pizzelle Wafer Cookies, Mackinaw Taffy, Cinnamon Buddeez Nuts, Germack Sweet and Nutty Mix, American Gourmet Pretzels, Candy Sticks, and Michigan Mints. **$64.99**

Michigan Chef
This basket was created by Charlotte the chef for those who love to cook... Pantry Shelf Muffin Mix, Pastabilities Pasta, Pasta Server, Gourmet Mama Mucci's Pasta Sauce, The Pizza Gourmet Pizza/Bread Stick Mix, Country Creations Dip Mix, Mixed Herb and Spice Rice Mix, Benjamin Twiggs Dried Cherries, and Cookie Cutters in the Shapes of the Upper and lower Peninsulas. **$72.99**

Michigan Decadence
An elegant wicker basket with an over handle to hold these tantalizing goodies: a Large Bottle of St. Julian's Sparkling Juice, Michigan Pate, Mackinac Fort Fudge, American Gourmet Pretzels, Hanover Michigan Mints, Chocolate Covered Cherries, Sanders Fudge Topping, a Cookie Cutter in the Shape of Michigan filled with Chocolate & Cherries, LeeLanau Flavored Coffee, and Pizzelle Cookies. **$66.99**

Michigan Cherries Jubilee
Amy's Chunky Cherry Chutney, Benjamin Twigg's Dried Cherries, Brownwood Acres Famous Cherry Butter, Michigan-Shaped Cookie Cutter filled with Chocolate & Cherries, Luscious Cherry Vanilla Mackinac Fudge, LeeLanau Chocolate Cherry Festival Coffee, and Carp River Trading Company Tart Cherry Mustard. **$56.99**

Sweet Side of Michigan
Chocolate lovers will adore this basket full of Michigan sweets including Mackinaw Fudge, Benjamin Twigg Chocolate Covered Cherries, Carp River Fudge Topping, a Michigan Cookie Cutter Filled with Cherries and Chocolate, A Bag of Hanover's Michigan Mints, and Chocolate Flavored Fireside Coffee. **$44.99**

Game Day
Celebrate Wolverine sports with this University of Michigan themed collection of snacks...U/M Blue and Maize Tortilla Chips, U/M Salsa, Zesty Asparagus Guacamole, U/M Chocolate Covered Nuts, U/M Cookies, a Box of U/M Chocolates, U/M Microwave Popcorn, U/M Napkins, and a U/M Soft Football Helmut Key Chain that plays the fight song and shouts "Go Blue" for your musical entertainment. **$72.99**

Ann Arbor Gourmet
Food and Ann Arbor go together: Sweet Lorraine's Sauce, Parthenon Greek Salad Dressing, Mountain Country Coffee, MacKinlay Tea, Pastabilities Pasta, Clancy's Fancy Hot Sauce, Amy's Cherry Chutney, Candy Fruit Flashers, Candy Sticks— nestled together in a wicker basket with a maize and blue motif. **$59.99**

Fruit & Snack Sampler
This basket is filled with a beautiful display of fresh Apples, Oranges, Grapefruit, Pears, Peaches, Nectarines, Bananas, St. Julian's Sparkling Juice, Carrs Crackers, Cheese Bitts, and Rocky Top Farms Fruit Preserves and Butter. **$49.99**

Jumbo Fruit
Large wicker basket brimming over with Several varieties of Apples, Pears, Peaches, Plums, Oranges, Grapefruit, Bananas, Nectarines, Cheese Packs, Sausage, Carrs Crackers, St. Julian's Sparkling Juice, Brownwood Acres Cherry Butter— assembled with colorful fruit flashers and topped with a jumbo bow. **$69.99**

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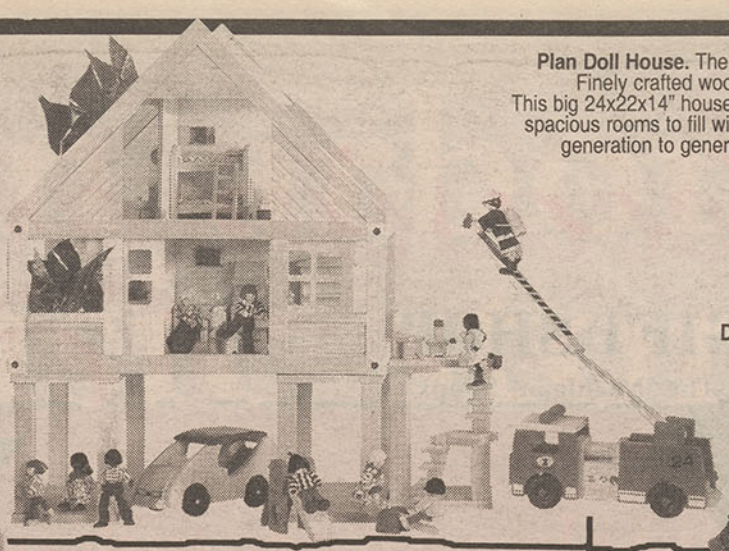

Plan Doll House. The busiest house in the imaginative world of make believe! Finely crafted wood house has wide open spaces to provide easy access. This big 24x22x14" house is easy to assemble (they even include the tools!), with spacious rooms to fill with durable, detailed furniture. A treasure to pass through generation to generation. It's all sold separately, so you can mix and match!

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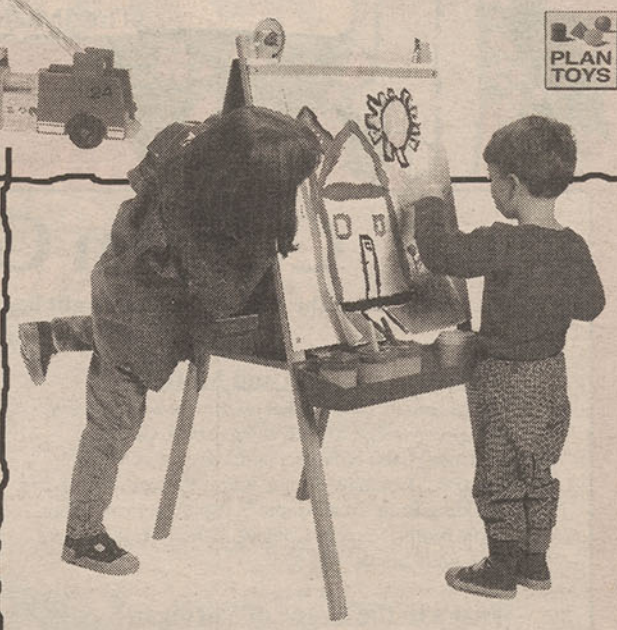

Earl-E-Bird may not catch any worms, but he sure will catch baby's attention, whether it's Earl's orange beak, or his bright red crinkly tail, or one of his squeaky feet. $12.50

Double-Sided Hardwood Easel has pinch-proof hinges, deep trays to avoid spills, center storage tray and wood "paper cutter." One side is a wipe-off board and the other a chalkboard. $75

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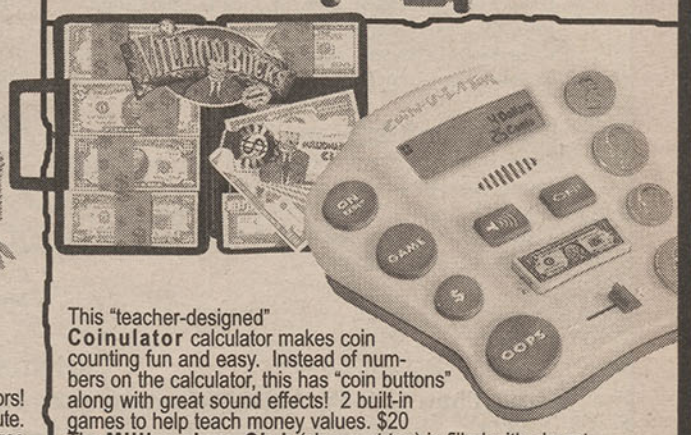

This "teacher-designed" **Coinulator** calculator makes coin counting fun and easy. Instead of numbers on the calculator, this has "coin buttons" along with great sound effects! 2 built-in games to help teach money values. $20
The **Millionaires Club** (shown at top) is filled with almost $1 million of "almost legal tender." $9

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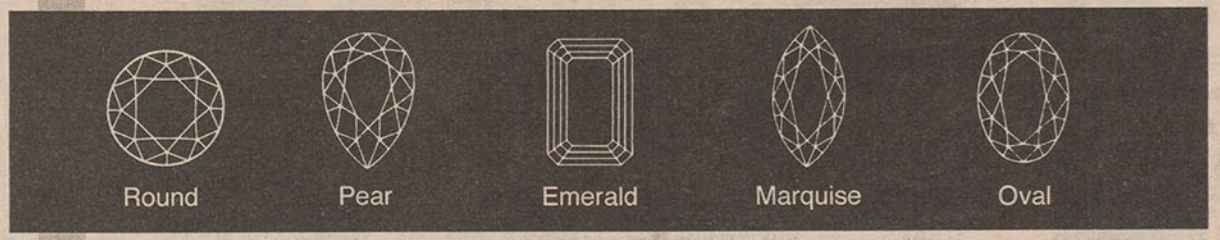

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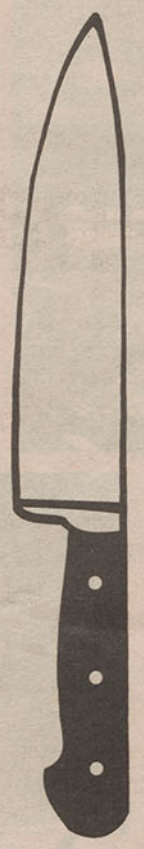

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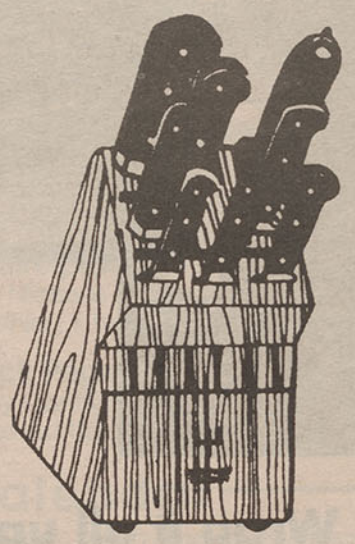

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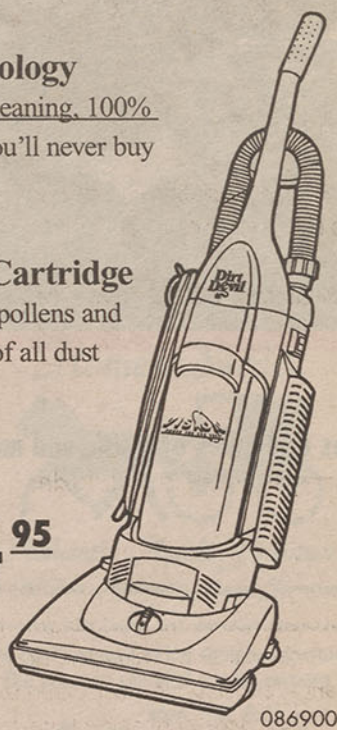

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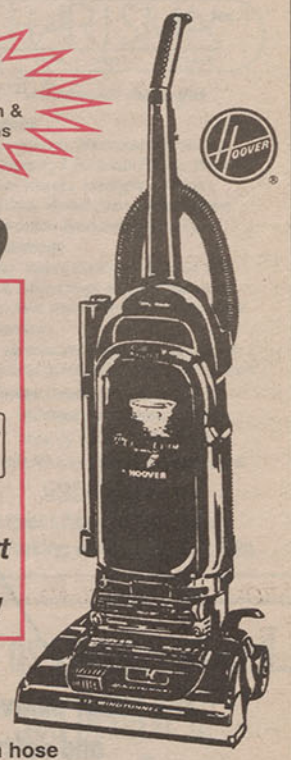

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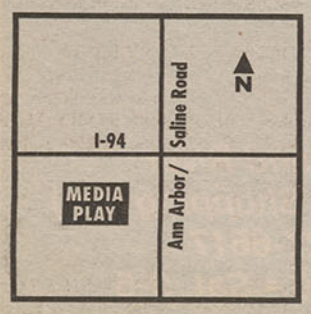

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Ann Arbor Observer

December 1999 vol. 24 • no. 4

Cover: *House on Liberty at Fourth Street.* Watercolor by Greg Sobran.

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features

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Erick Trickey, John Hinchey, Don Hunt, Penny Schreiber, Mary Beth Lewis, John Hilton, Grace Shackman, Eve Silberman, Madeline Strong Diehl, Judson Branam, Jon Hall
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Report on High School Futures

The much-talked about High School Futures (HSF) report was presented to the Board on October 27th. Copies of the full report are in all schools, with multiple copies in media centers for parents. The first 20 pages are posted on the district's web site at www.aaps.k12.mi.us and have been sent to all staff in the district. Citizens who would like a copy can call 994-2236.

An administrative response scheduled for December by the Superintendent will 'fill out' the options as presented by the HSF Committee and offer, if needed, additional options for consideration, although none are envisioned at this time.

It is not the intent of the administrative response to 'choose' an option. Rather, it is to ensure that the Board, the Committee and the public have the maximum information possible as we all move forward toward decision points.

The administrative response will propose timelines and resource allocation as part of the planning process and options analysis. A plan for communication (substantially completed in the HSF report), definitive decision points, analysis and coordination of related issues will be part of the administrative analysis.

Citizens can email their ideas to the following address (community_input@aaps.k12.mi.us) or to a postal address (Dr. Deb Small, ATT: High School Futures, Ann Arbor Public Schools, 2555 S. State St., Ann Arbor, MI 48104).

Public forums during which members from the High School Futures Committee and district staff will review the content of the report are scheduled for Monday, Nov. 29, Tappan, 6-8 p.m.; Tuesday, Nov. 30, Forsythe, 7-9 p.m.; Thursday, Dec. 2, Slauson, 6-8 p.m.; Monday, Dec. 6, Scarlett, 7-9 p.m.; and Tuesday, Dec. 7, Clague, 6-8 p.m. Copies of the full report will be given to all participants of the forums. Please read the report and be involved in the discussions!

DistrictY2K Ready

Dr. Howard Moskowitz, Director of the Information Technology Department, has told the Board that the schools will be Y2K ready for January 1, 2000.

His staff has been hard at work ensuring all computer workstations, critical servers, environmental systems, and office automation equipment within the district are Y2K compliant. Desktop hardware and software have been evaluated and certified by the vendors. All mainframe operations have also been checked for compliance. Finally, a readiness team will be on duty December 31st, and throughout the weekend if necessary, to ensure a smooth transition into the next millennium.

"Students" for a Day

Three times a year the district schedules a full day of classes for community leaders so they can visit various schools across the city. After their tours of facilities and programs, they "debrief" with central administrators and the Board of Education to discuss what they "learned" from their day back in school. Together they talk about future needs and plans for the district as well as their thoughts about current issues facing the schools.

The first group of "students" this year are April Bayles, UM Athletic Department; Paul Callam, Cooper, Walenski & Cramer; Rev. Alfred E. Johnson, Bethel AME Church; and Rose M. Smith, Cleary College. They "attended classes" at Allen, Clague, Community, Huron, Pittsfield, Scarlett, Slauson, and Tappan on November 3rd. If you are interested in being a part of a future Community Leaders Day in School call 994-8139.

Cultural Arts Abound

Since 1953 the district's Community Education and Recreation Cultural Arts program has served thousands of children, youth and adults in the Ann Arbor area. This fall over 1,600 participants are enjoying art, drama, dance, and music classes all across town.

If you want to learn more about ballroom dancing, country/western line dancing, Latin dance, swing, or Hip-Hop, there is a class for you. Most dance classes are held at the Cultural Arts Building located at the corner of Wells St. and S. Forest (near Burns Park Elementary) because of its wonderful dance studio complete with mirrors and specially-treated wooden dance floor.

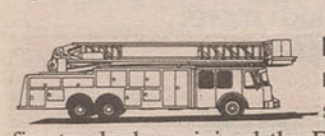
For music lovers there are private lessons in piano, voice, guitar, banjo, and string instruments in addition to choral opportunities for any age group. The performing company of middle and high school students performed Snow White in the Ann Arbor Civic Theatre Playhouse November 18-21. The 65-member Ann Arbor Civic Chorus presents its last concert in 1999 on Sunday, December 5th at Slauson. It is free and open to the public.

The original Recreation Department was established in 1916! Today the department provides baseball, soccer, field hockey, basketball, and softball leagues for nearly 9,000 youth each year. In addition the School Age Child Care Program serves 18 schools and 1,100 children. For more information call 994-2300, ext. 228.

For information on these, or any other program of the Ann Arbor Public Schools, please contact Dr. Deb Small, Executive Director for Community Relations, at 734-994-2236. (Ad design by Wendy Everett)

UPFRONT

And the winner is . . . local attorney Tom Wieder, who represented substitute teachers in their class-action lawsuit against the Ann Arbor Public Schools. He'll collect one-third of the $25–$27 million settlement, **close to $9 million.** Wieder will also get 20 percent of the first year's salary of all the teachers hired permanently. It's the biggest settlement in county history, but Wieder shrugs off criticisms that he and the subs were greedy. "I didn't do this to the schools," he says. "The schools did this to themselves. They violated the law." State law requires districts to offer full-time jobs to subs who teach an entire year, but for almost a decade, Ann Arbor asked subs to waive that right—creating a huge retroactive liability when the waiver was found to be illegal.



Return to red: Two shiny new fire trucks have joined the Fire Department. Neither the pumper ($197,601) nor the ladder truck ($364,333) is painted the **weird light green** the department turned to a while back to increase nighttime visibility; instead, both are the **traditional fire-engine red,** with beefed-up lighting and striping packages to make them easier to spot at night than standard red fire rigs. But don't expect these big machines **to zoom through traffic.** Their 350-horsepower Cummins diesel engines generate a maximum speed of just fifty-eight miles per hour.

The usual suspects: Neighbors and fraternity members remain under suspicion in the fire that gutted the Sigma Alpha Mu house at 800 Lincoln near Hill on August 27. Investigators suspect arson because people were seen entering the house before the fire broke out at 2 a.m., and because the fire struck just one day before an **infamous SAM chapter** was to have moved back into the newly renovated building. **Rowdy even by Greek standards,** the chapter had been disbanded several years ago and was being resurrected. Neighbors had a long and acrimonious relationship with previous SAM brothers and may have dreaded another boisterous bunch of U-M students in their midst. But suspicion also has been directed at members of Tau Epsilon Phi, the fraternity that had recently leased the house, on the theory that one or more TEP members may have resented being pushed out of the house to make way for the new SAM chapter. There's a **$5,000 reward** for information about the arson—if, indeed, it is arson.

Fancy prices: We looked up the twenty most expensive homes in Ann Arbor at the city assessor's office. In twentieth place is a 3,000-plus-square-foot **Pin Oak palace** assessed at $695,000. At the top of the scale, three homes are **worth more than $1 million.** Two of the top twenty were built in the Roaring Twenties, but not one was built in the 1930s, 1940s, or 1950s, and only one in the 1960s. All the rest have sprung up since 1985. A single street, High Orchard, hosts three of the priciest homes. Tied for second, with two each, are Devonshire, Dobson, Green, Oak Hills, and Overridge. Every one of the top twenty homes is east of State Street.

What does it cost? **$82**—round-trip train fare from Ann Arbor to Chicago . . . **$600**—circumcision of adult male by Washtenaw Urology Associates, including anesthesia and bandage . . . **$97**—recovering your car after it's been towed by the city for four or more unpaid parking tickets, not including cost of the unpaid tickets (add $48 special-treatment towing charge for four-wheel-drive and luxury cars) . . . **$90**—chimney cleaning and inspection, by Robert's Roofing & Chimney Service . . . **$550**—sixty seconds of WJR radio ad time on Paul W. Smith's morning program . . . **$0**—cost to home owner for emergency visit by fire truck(s) . . . **$100**—nine-by-thirteen-foot wall map of the world from Geography Ltd. on Winewood . . . **$45**—centuries-old cobblestone from the streets of Dublin at the U-M Museum of Art gift shop . . . **$175**—typical cost for an Ann Arbor home owner to replace a cracked front sidewalk, per five-by-five-foot concrete slab.

Demographics: Of the many changes in Ann Arbor over the past quarter century, none is more dramatic than the rising number of folks who **work but do not live in Ann Arbor.** A sampling of the 1976 and 1999 U-M employee directories shows that virtually all the faculty lived in town in 1976, and close to 100 percent still do today. But in 1976, two-thirds of the U-M's support staff lived in Ann Arbor, whereas today **only about one-third do.** In 1976, chances were that a steamfitter, a secretary, a nurse, a printer, or even a custodian had an Ann Arbor address. Now, most live elsewhere. Still, roughly the same overall absolute number of U-M staff live in Ann Arbor—because **employment at the U-M has surged** from about 14,697 in 1976 to 23,342 today. What's changed is the mix of U-M staff now living here. If you're making under $40,000 a year and trying to raise a family, chances are you'll buy a home **outside the city limits.**

Secret singles society? "If we ever hear of a wedding resulting from Saturday Morning Physics, that'd be nice," says organizer Tim McKay. Though it apparently hasn't happened yet, it's not unlikely, given the lecture series' **social-club-like atmosphere.** Many attendees arrive at the packed auditorium in the Dennison Physics and Astronomy Building alone, and before the lively, joke-peppered, ultra-multimedia talks, a certain number of **speculative, somewhat radarlike glances** can be spotted sweeping the crowd (notably free of both polyester shirts and plastic pocket protectors). The challenging talks—currently looking at ancient and modern explanations of the Milky Way—have built a cult following that goes far beyond their role as a covert singles scene. Regulars show up wearing SMP T-shirts and sweatshirts, and one woman even embroidered a big "Saturday Morning Physics" banner to unfurl at U-M football games.

Assessorize: Big changes are occurring in the Assessor's Division at City Hall as they convert record keeping from a cumbersome mainframe computer to PCs running a software package called "The Equalizer." One **nifty implication:** if all goes well, in about a year you'll be able to get the assessor's information about your home—or any other Ann Arbor property—over the Internet. Already, digital photos have been taken of each of the city's **almost 30,000 private properties.** Another good possibility: a **paperless assessor's office.** Banks of file cabinets would no longer be needed to keep records on each property, since printouts of computer records could be **produced on demand.**

Trip of the month: Thinking about taking Amtrak down to warm Orlando, relaxing on the train without the stress of driving or the hassles and delays of the airport? **Better think again.** You'll leave Ann Arbor at 10:40 p.m. on a bus, which takes you to Toledo. The train for Florida departs Toledo at 2:09 a.m., arriving in Washington, D.C., at three the next afternoon. Sound relaxing? After an eight-hour layover and change of trains, you depart for Orlando at 10:59 p.m., pulling in at 4:05 in the afternoon**, more than forty-one hours after leaving Ann Arbor.** The return trip is no better, leaving Orlando at 4:05 p.m. and arriving in Ann Arbor at 7:50 in the morning two days later. The cost? $359 each way—if you book early and get the cheapest available seats. Thinking about one of those **romantic sleeping compartments,** like in 1940s movies? That'll be at least $1,018 per person, round trip. Of course, the cost includes meals on the train and a shower—unavailable to coach travelers.

Reflections: We asked novelist and U-M English professor Nicholas Delbanco what **words of wisdom** he had to share. Delbanco responded by sending us this excerpt from his new book of essays, *The Lost Suitcase:* "Each novelist, I think, must at some time be seized by a perception of the foolishness, not to say futility, of the enterprise: a grown person making up stories to gain other grown-ups' attention. We scuttle, pen in hand, to baseball games or bars and come back with our fragment of overheard speech. We rise from our loved one's bed or hospital bedside and make notes; we enter delivery rooms or funeral parlors with the at least partly conscious intention of returning with a phrase. It's a strange profession and affords strange comfort: word-spinning, ghost-spelling, the King sung to sleep. That commonplace injunction to the apprentice author, 'Write about what you know,' begs the question utterly: we discover what we know while writing, and it is more than we knew."

Department of Dogs: What is the most popular dog breed in Ann Arbor? The contest isn't even close. The city clerk's license file shows Labs outnumbering golden retrievers almost three to one (463 to 161). Beagles are third (132), followed by fast-fading cocker spaniels (83). Surprisingly, **menacing Rottweilers** (66) outnumber once-popular poodles (61) and collies (59). Thank goodness there are **only eighteen pit bulls.** ■

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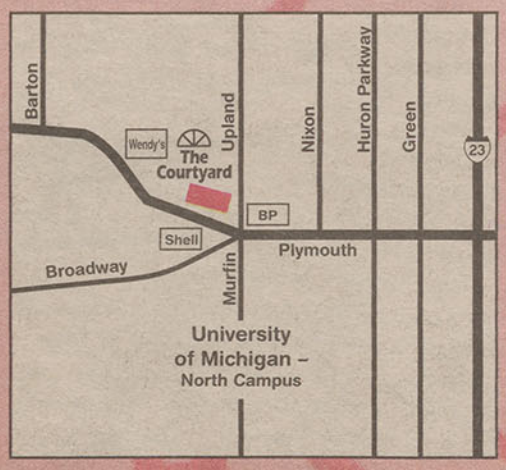

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BUSINESS

Parke-Davis on the Corporate Battlefield

Anxiety is high among the 2,200 workers at the sprawling Parke-Davis research facility as a corporate bidding war determines the fate of Ann Arbor's largest private employer.

When chemist Bruce Roth synthesized a new molecule in the labs on Plymouth Road in 1985, he could not suspect that fourteen years later his compound would provoke the largest hostile takeover bid in corporate history.

The compound was atorvastatin, which under the trade name Lipitor would go on to become the most lucrative new drug in history, earning more than $1 billion its first year out the gate (1997). Analysts predict that sales of the cholesterol-lowering blockbuster will reach $5 billion a year by 2001.

Ironically, that sensational success has now backfired on Parke-Davis parent company Warner-Lambert. That's because Pfizer, its marketing partner for Lipitor, has launched a $75 billion hostile takeover bid for Warner-Lambert, thus threatening to derail Warner-Lambert's friendly $71 billion merger agreement with American Home Products (AHP), revealed in early November.

"It's a must-win for Pfizer, because they need Lipitor," says Charles Engelberg, a drug industry analyst at Ameri-Cal Securities in San Francisco. "They don't want to share it with Warner-Lambert, and they certainly don't want to share it with 'American Warner' [the proposed AHP/Warner-Lambert combination].

"Pfizer now views this as critical for their long-term success," says Engelberg. "They want to own the whole thing; they don't want to own just part of it."

Why did Warner-Lambert seek a merger partner in AHP to begin with, opening itself up to hostile bids like Pfizer's? Despite Lipitor's success, Parke-Davis research is viewed as struggling. "Three years out, they don't have much in their pipeline to generate the double-digit EPS [earnings per share] growth they promised the Street," says Engelberg. Hopes were high for the diabetes drug Rezulin, but sales have suffered following numerous deaths from liver failure in Rezulin users. AHP, for its part, is experiencing declining sales for most of its products, and faces massive liability costs for the "fen-phen" diet drug combination, implicated in heart-valve problems and pulled from the market in 1997.

AHP and Warner-Lambert appear culturally compatible; both are conservative, tightfisted drug companies. Pfizer, by contrast, is an aggressive and freewheeling marketing innovator, as its eye-catching Viagra ads demonstrate. According to *Forbes* magazine, Pfizer may be unique in that the marketing department controls drug development teams.

Which merger partner would be better for the Ann Arbor labs, AHP or Pfizer? Warner-Lambert veterans would occupy a much stronger position in "American Warner." Lodewink de Vink, Warner-Lambert chair, is slated to become CEO of the combined company. In contrast, hostile acquisitions in the drug industry have often been followed by decimation of the prey. After Glaxo took over Burroughs Wellcome in 1995, it shut down an entire research campus in England and laid off thousands more researchers in North Carolina.

Pfizer, however, is bending over backwards to reassure worried Parke-Davis scientists. In a November *Wall Street Journal* interview, Pfizer research chief John Niblack stressed that the company needs more research capacity, not less. He described the chance to acquire the Ann Arbor labs as "a nice instant fix" for the shortage. "My basic feeling about the Warner-Lambert [R&D] force is that we would like to keep them all," Niblack told the *Journal*.

Even if the Ann Arbor labs survive intact, problems are likely. After Warner-Lambert took over Parke-Davis in 1970, practically the entire ensuing decade was marked by disruption and confusion at the local labs. Many programs were restructured, new leaders were named, and employees were transferred between divisions.

OBSERVER SURVEY

This month we surveyed a cross section of Ann Arbor's gay male population. We talked to twenty-nine men in all, ranging in age from twenty-two to fifty-four.

90% agree with the statement "Ann Arbor is a town I'd recommend to other gays as a good place to settle."

62% agree with the statement "Despite its liberal reputation, Ann Arbor has lots of people who are unfriendly to or uncomfortable around gays."

14% agree with the statement "Ronald Reagan was a president I personally admire."

22%—the proportion of Ann Arbor males who are gay, according to our respondents (an average of their estimates).

Chicago—most frequently mentioned destination for a weekend getaway. (Tied for second: New York and Saugatuck.)

85% say they are "not very" religious.

69% say they like disco.

28% say they are in a committed relationship.

28% say they earn over $50,000 a year.

82% find gays on average more interesting than nongays.

71% find gays more artistic than nongays.

55% find gays more humorous than nongays.

52% say gays are more intelligent than nongays.

7% say their employer is unaware they are gay.

Score Keepers bar—the place most frequently mentioned (four times) when respondents were asked to name the least gay-friendly place in town.

DEVELOPMENT

Assisted-Living Boom

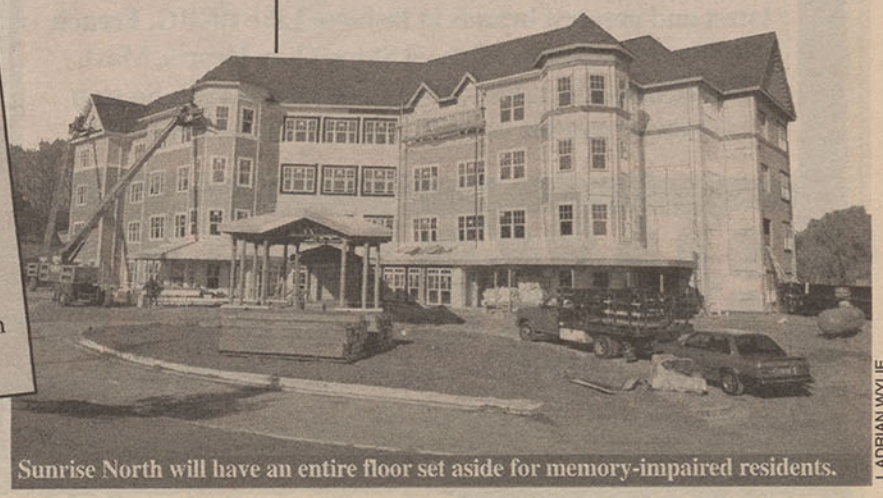
Ann Arbor is in the midst of an assisted-living boom: two sizable residences have been built in the past five years, two more large ones are now under construction, and yet another two are being planned.

Assisted living residences fill the niche between apartments and nursing homes. They serve the burgeoning population of "frail but ambulatory elderly"—people who may require some help with cooking, dressing, or bathing but don't need the active medical care provided by a nursing home. Typically, AL residences provide three good meals a day in a pleasant communal dining room. The concept has caught on like wildfire; three-quarters of the residences now being built nationwide for seniors are assisted-living facilities. In a couple of years, total AL beds in or near Ann Arbor should exceed 350.

Some AL residences are integrated into senior apartment complexes such as Hidden Pond on Carpenter, a system that permits residents to get more support as they age. Others, such as Sunrise on Ann Arbor–Saline Road, are exclusively dedicated to AL. And because memory loss so often becomes a problem among the elderly (half of those eighty-five or older have some degree of memory impairment), most AL facilities have a wing for Alzheimer and other dementia-afflicted residents. One AL residence in Ann Arbor, Hamilton House, is exclusively for the memory impaired.

AL facilities have proven popular because they permit the frail elderly to remain independent and because they offer a pleasant, noninstitutional atmosphere. But while generally cheaper than nursing homes, their extensive amenities aren't for the indigent: costs range from $2,000 to $5,000 a month, and insurance rarely covers these hefty fees. Unlike nursing homes, AL residences aren't regulated. That means they aren't systematically monitored, and it also means there is no restriction on how many can be built in a given area. Already there are predictions of a coming shakeout in the AL industry.

A second Sunrise residence is under construction on Plymouth Road. Scheduled to open next spring, it will have an entire floor set aside for memory-impaired residents. University Living, due to open next summer on South Main, plans to have multiple programming ties to the U-M, tapping university faculty and students to provide a "live-in elderhostel" with live music, lectures, and classes.



Sunrise North will have an entire floor set aside for memory-impaired residents.

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SPORTS

Fab or Fail?

Though U-M men's basketball coach Brian Ellerbe doesn't like comparisons to the famed Fab Five of the early 1990s, another group of five freshmen has arrived with great anticipation and expectation.

The latest recruiting class—rated as high as third best in the country by a number of recruiting experts—is led by local high school star LaVell Blanchard, who last year carried Pioneer High to its first-ever state championship. Two other Ellerbe recruits were prep players-of-the-year in their states—Washington's versatile six-foot-six perimeter playmaker Jamal Crawford and Nevada's six-foot-four guard Kevin Gaines—along with deadeye six-foot-five shooting guard Gavin Groninger and six-foot-eight, 245-pound power forward Leland Anderson.

Steve Fisher recruited and rode the original Fab Five to fame and near-ultimate glory—if not also to his own ultimate ouster. Yet he also discouraged comparisons to the originals when he brought his vaunted 1994 recruiting class to Crisler. He was right to be wary: Jerod Ward was injury riddled throughout his career, and Willie Mitchell transferred after his sophomore year, so they hardly played with classmates Maurice Taylor, Maceo Baston, and Travis Conlan.

Taylor, Baston, and Conlan all had nice careers and distinguished themselves in varying degrees—but while the Fab Five played in two consecutive national title games, the 1994 class won just one NCAA tournament game in four years.

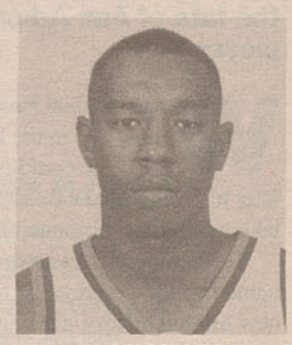
So will the newest heralded youngsters bear a greater resemblance to the Fabs or the Fails? The coaches abhor comparisons, but one thing is certain: although athletic director Tom Goss talks about building a program that resembles the respected Duke model rather than the flamboyant image projected by Fisher's Fab Five, most of Ellerbe's new recruits idolized the Fabs. In fact, they're part of the reason the freshmen signed with Michigan.

"Ever since the Fab Five, my mind was set that Michigan is where I wanted to go," says Gaines. Blanchard attended games during the era of the Fab Five and got to meet all of them. "They were great to me," he says. "Hopefully we can make a nice little run like they did." Crawford was also a big fan. "They were different," he says. "They played with so much confidence, especially as freshmen."

Remarkably, the Fab Five were a perfect starting unit: center Juwan Howard, power forward Chris Webber, small forward Ray Jackson, shooting guard Jimmy King, and point guard Jalen Rose. Fisher made big news by finally starting all of them around the midway point of their freshman season. This year, with junior Brandon Smith out until January because of a summer knee injury, Blanchard may start at small forward, but he'll join junior Josh Asselin and senior Peter Vignier on the front line. And though Gaines, Crawford, and Groninger will likely see extensive playing time in the backcourt, much-improved sophomore shooting guard Leon Jones won't easily yield a starting spot to any of them.

Most preseason polls pick Michigan to finish somewhere between sixth and ninth in the Big Ten, and the more optimistic projections even have the Wolverines sneaking into postseason tournament play. But the Big Ten will be a rugged place again this season, and it's difficult to know how the U-M youngsters will hold up through the grind. While coach Ellerbe has recruited well nationally, MSU's Tom Izzo continues to bring in most of the state's top players—just one of the reasons why the top-rated Spartans are expected to dominate again.

ANDERSON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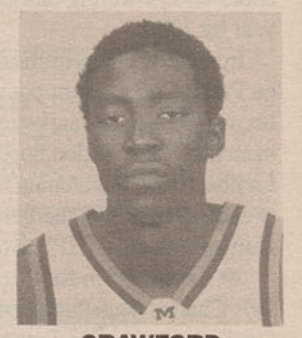
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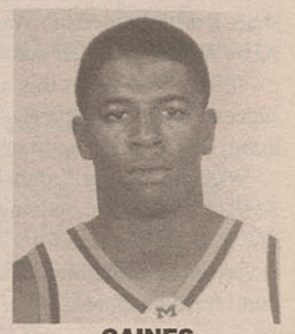
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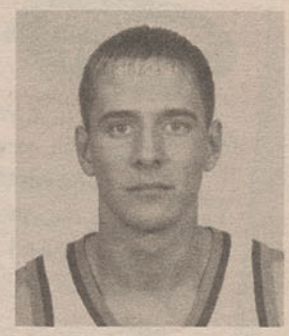
GRONINGER

PHOTOS COURTESY U-M ATHLETIC DEPT.

POLITICS

For the Love of Parkland

A five-year millage that will provide $1.5 million annually for acquiring parkland scored a surprisingly lopsided win last month—but don't be surprised if rancorous debates erupt on city council over specific acquisition proposals.

The long spell of placid city council meetings may come to a jarring halt soon. That's because the recently-passed parkland ballot proposal provided no guidelines about how to pick and choose among available parcels. And since the proposal was put on the ballot by a citizen initiative that made an end run around the regular parks planning process, this acquisition millage—unlike previous ones—was not marketed to voters with detailed proposals about what land the city intended to purchase. That means there will be a lot of room for disagreement about what to buy and what to pass over.

Since it takes eight (of eleven) votes to approve land purchases, council's four-member Republican minority—for the first time since Democrats gained a seemingly permanent majority in 1991—should enjoy more than a few opportunities to shape the outcome of important policy debates. The Republicans will be in a position either to block purchases they don't like or to trade their approval for Democratic support of policies important to Republican constituents.

The first showdown could come soon. The new millage was spearheaded in part by Friends of the Bluffs, a group of neighbors and environmentalists opposed to a developer's plan to build condos on a wooded bluff overlooking North Main. But the city already owns the best part of the bluff, and the Parks Advisory Committee has indicated it doesn't regard the remaining parcel as prime parkland. Trying to buy it could cause sparks, since all four council Republicans have been lukewarm—at best—about using parkland acquisition for the sole purpose of blocking development.

The overwhelming victory of the parks millage makes one wonder whether Ann Arborites are really all that worked up about taxes. Among the 10,500 people voting, the new tax passed by a margin of almost two to one. And another 40,000 or more Ann Arborites who'll turn out for next year's presidential election obviously weren't concerned enough about the issue to bother to vote either way.

SURVIVALISM

Brian Steglitz and Sumedh Bahl can keep water flowing for a month. J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Ready for Y2K

Though prophecies of computer disasters have subsided, the city is taking no chances as the turn of the millennium approaches.

A year ago, the media were full of ominous predictions about the "Y2K Bug." In the days when the most rudimentary computer filled an entire room, programmers saved precious memory by shortening year citations from four to two digits—"99" for "1999," for instance. That practice continued right through the flowering of the computer age. It was only in recent years that they came to grips with what would happen when the year turns to "00." A handful of trial runs—and the system crashes those runs brought on—prompted a rush to remedy the problem before the end of 1999.

Given the timing, apocalyptic projections were probably inevitable. Warnings about planes falling from the sky, and social chaos triggered by the failure of vital utility grids, spread like wildfire. Although the headlines faded once it became clear that such a vast technological comeuppance was unlikely, the work of fixing the Millennium Bug has continued behind the scenes.

"In terms of Y2K compliance, fire, police, EMS, communications, water, and wastewater systems are all fine," reports Bob Lechtanski, the city's emergency management director. "All police and fire department communications systems, equipment, and computer hardware and software are compliant." So are the stoplight computers—though, Lechtanski notes, the lights could still go dark if electrical power were to fail. (In that case, he notes, "we are counting on common sense prevailing and people treating all traffic signals like a four-way stop.")

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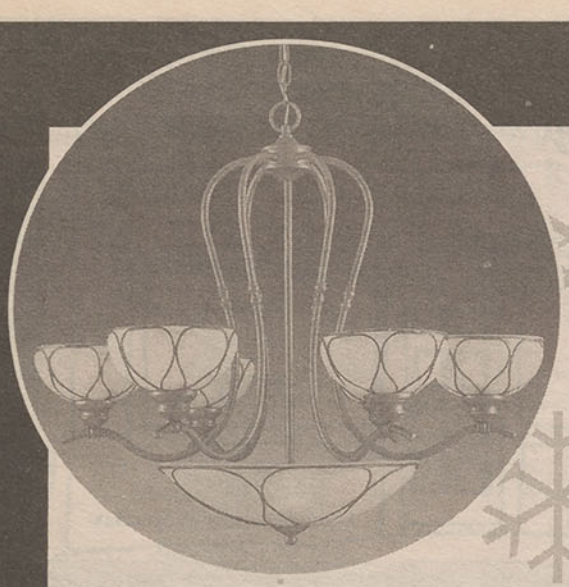

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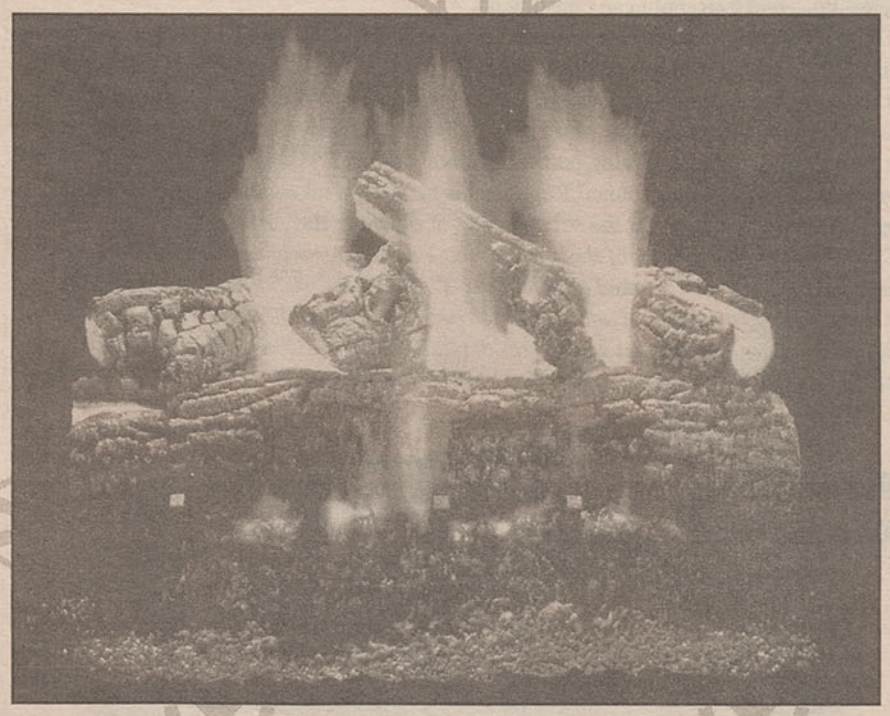

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"One thing I can tell you is one hundred percent sure is that the city will have water even if Edison's not working," Lechtanski adds. In fact, the water and wastewater systems would do a survivalist proud: thanks to new backup generators, Ann Arbor can keep water and sewage flowing for up to a month without outside power. Utilities director Sumedh Bahl stresses that the generators were an already-planned upgrade—not a Y2K precaution.

Lechtanski repeats the standard advice that all citizens "need to be prepared [to survive without utilities] for up to three days, with one gallon of water per person per day, plenty of nonperishable food and a nonelectric can opener, and plenty of warm clothes, a flashlight, a battery-powered radio." But he doubts that they'll be needed. He notes that Detroit Edison, MichCon, Ameritech, and Consumers Power are all projecting reliability in excess of 99.5 percent on January 1.

Just in case, however, Lechtanski himself will spend New Year's Eve in the city's emergency operations center—along with the city administrator, the police chief, the fire chief, the director of public works, the director of administrative services, and the city public information officer. "If we celebrate," he says, "it'll be with sparkling apple cider." ■

Calls & Letters

In Defense of Red Sea

To the Observer:

Your November review critiquing the Red Sea restaurant is written with biased views and lacks professional courtesy. Laura McReynolds never asked us how the food is prepared or what sorts of spices and grains are used in making or preparing our authentic dishes. She simply wrote the article with no cultural sensitivity and knowledge about our food. She should be ashamed for her lack of professionalism.

McReynolds starts out her criticism by saying "Red Sea's food is mild, maybe even underspiced." This is an absurd statement. Each dish is prepared, seasoned, and spiced according to our cultural knowledge and tradition. Secondly, our *injera* (spongy bread) is not made with whole wheat. It is made with a grain called *teff,* widely used in Ethiopia and Eritrea, with a very little amount of white flour to give it a desirable softness.

McReynolds's disappointment with our vegetable combo could be with her orientation toward vegetarian food. The way we cook our vegetarian dishes can be quite different from many other restaurants or what McReynolds is accustomed to. We do not mix or cook our vegetables with dairy products such as clarified butter. Instead, we use vegetable oil to cook our vegetable dishes.

It is obvious to us that McReynolds is unable to describe an authentic Ethiopian dish and how it is prepared. For instance, our collard greens are seasoned with a large amount of garlic, green peppers, ginger, onion, salt, and vegetable oil. Her description of how we seasoned our collard greens is totally wrong.

By the way, you can easily judge an authentic restaurant by its ability to attract its native people as regular customers. In this case, Red Sea restaurant, since its opening seven months ago, has attracted a lot of Ethiopian and Eritrean people to its door.

Sincerely,
Nebiat Negusse, Red Sea restaurant

The death of Jimmie Jones

"That is a blatant lie," the mother of Jimmie Jones said in a phone call. Jimmie's father, Ernie Jones (Ann Arborites, November), had told us his son died of a drug overdose. That infuriated Jimmie's mother. The death "had nothing to do with drugs," she said, adding that Jones was her son's father "only in the biological sense." She provided her son's death certificate, which clearly does not mention drugs in any fashion. "To show you how respected he was," she added, "Gelman Sciences [where Jimmy was employed] flew the American flag at half mast, and coworkers were given time off to attend the funeral service.

"Ernie has to pay for these inexcusable lies," she continued. After consulting three attorneys and learning she had no legal recourse, she's on a crusade to spread the truth about her son's death. That way, she hopes, Jones's peers, as well as the people he waves and speaks to as they pass his house on the corner of Beakes and North Fourth Avenue, "will see him for what he is—and some justice will be served."

We hadn't realized that Jones's comments would reopen such hard feelings; our apologies to any readers who were offended.

Berlin met his deadline

Our article on the Allen's Creek floodplain ("Storm Warning," November) uncritically repeated Jim Nicita's assertion that city administrator Neal Berlin had missed an October 1 deadline for reporting back to city council on floodplain issues. Berlin wrote to point out that his assistant, Pamilla Brant, had submitted the requested report to council on September 20. "Obviously, it will be appreciated if reporters seek to verify hearsay," Berlin commented, "particularly when it is obviously not true."

Nabbing Kaczynski

November's Crime Update gave the wrong year for the apprehension of the Unabomber. Ann Arbor FBI agent Greg Stejskal identified Ted Kaczynski on February 13, 1996.

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SNOW REMOVAL

City of Ann Arbor

Where there is light snow or ice on road surfaces, the city's Public Services Department clears over 94 miles of high volume streets, bridges, intersections with stop signs or traffic signals, and streets with curves. De-icing materials are applied to provide better traction for vehicles to help prevent accidents at high-risk locations. The street clearing process takes about five hours and may be repeated as needed. After the major and high-risk streets are cleared, city crews de-ice the local streets in the city, which requires ten to twelve hours.

When a snowfall of four inches or more occurs, street snow plowing begins. At this point a number of city departments become involved, supplementing the Public Services Department's equipment and operators. While the Public Services Department crews clear the major streets, Parks and Recreation and Utilities Departments crews begin working on the residential streets. Plowing is done on all public streets and city-owned property; however, all schools and privately owned areas provide for their own de-icing and plowing. Citizens are advised to remove cars from curbside parking to allow for effective street plowing.

The city developed a high need snow removal plan to further define the responsibility of the various departments when the snow removal operation moves into a high need situation. High need is described as any urgent situation which requires personnel and/or equipment which exceeds what is available within the department that is primarily responsible to address the service.

A city snow desk is staffed during snow emergencies. The snow desk tracks the location of plows throughout the city and provides information to the public about the plowing progress. You may reach the snow desk at 994-2359.
The City Administrator may declare a "snow emergency" during a severe winter storm. During a snow emergency, special parking restrictions go into effect for all streets in the city. Illegally parked cars will be towed and impounded.

Where street parking is normally permitted, restrictions go into effect to allow curbside access to city crews to clear the street surfaces:

* **On even-numbered days, cars may not park on the even-numbered sides of these streets** in order to allow plows to clear the even-numbered side of the street. Parking is permitted on the side of the street with odd-numbered addresses. After the street has been plowed, normal parking may be resumed on both sides of the street.

* **On odd-numbered days, cars may not park on the odd-numbered sides of these streets** in order to allow plows to clear the odd-numbered sides of the street. Parking is permitted on the side of the street with even-numbered addresses. After the street has been plowed, normal parking may be resumed on both sides of the street.

* **Designated snow emergency routes must be kept clear of parked cars at all times during the snow emergency.**

When there is a snow event in Ann Arbor, the city depends on its citizens to be helpful, responsible, and aware of the need to remove all snow and ice from the public sidewalks.

During the winter months, many Ann Arbor residents (including children walking to school and the physically challenged) need to be able to safely use the public sidewalks. This means that all snow and ice should be removed from the entire constructed width of the public sidewalk. This enables people of all ages and physical conditions to have access to clean pedestrian walkways. City council has passed an ordinance regarding snow removal (violations can result in fines up to $500), but reminds you that sidewalk snow removal is simply a combination of courtesy and caring toward all those who need to use the public sidewalks.

The city reminds owners or occupants of non-residentially zoned properties that all snow and ice which has accumulated on the adjacent public sidewalk prior to 6am must be removed by noon. Immediately after the accumulation of ice on such a sidewalk it must be treated with sand, salt or other substance to prevent it from being slippery. Within 24 hours after the end of each accumulation of snow greater than 1 inch, the owner or occupant of every residentially zoned property must remove the accumulation from the adjacent public sidewalk. Remember, accumulation can occur from any source including precipitation and drifting. Ice must be treated as mentioned above and removed within 24 hours after accumulation. Last but certainly not least, please exercise caution and care when shoveling, especially during extreme cold.

Best Wishes for a Safe and Happy Winter Season from the City of Ann Arbor

Please save for reference throughout the snow months.

FOR THE PEOPLE
The Ann Arbor City Government Newsletter
Winter 1999 Volume 9 Number 4

Winning with City Hall

PREPARING FOR Y2K OR ANY EMERGENCY

No one can foresee how serious any Y2K disruptions might be; some are forecasting small disruptions while others are planning for major problems. Regardless of what happens on January 1, contingency plans insure that you are prepared for any emergency or disaster that may occur in the future, Y2K included.

ELECTRIC OUTAGES
Remember electric outages can occur at any time. Power outage may be caused by weather, animals, and accidents.

DO'S
1. Have several flashlights strategically placed throughout your house. Have extra flashlight bulbs and a back-up supply of batteries as well.
2. Conserve your home's optimum temperature by minimizing any unnecessary entering and exiting of your home.
3. In cold weather, utilize layers of clothing and a fireplace if available. Be sure to have plenty of firewood, kindling, and matches. Close off areas of the home not being used to conserve heat and minimize firewood usage.
4. Alternate non-electric methods of heating portions of your home are readily available through a variety of sources including home improvement stores, hardware stores, sporting goods stores, and stores that sell camping supplies. Safety concerns must be strictly adhered to by following the guidelines and recommendations made by the manufacturer. Most of the units available utilize "white gas" and propane as a fuel source. Be aware of flames and fumes in enclosed areas.
5. Utilize non-toxic light sticks (Glo-Sticks) available at local hardware stores to provide adequate lighting during hours of darkness in lieu of candles. These sticks come in a variety of different colors and duration. Choose the correct light stick for your needs. (We don't recommend the use of candles for emergency lighting over other safer alternatives.)
6. Have an emergency fire extinguisher(s) readily available, particularly in those locations where an open flame may be present at any time.
7. Have several battery-operated smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors up and functioning throughout your home as a back-up to electric detectors, particularly near your sleeping quarters. Have adequate supplies of batteries on hand to power detectors.
8. Utilize battery-operated radios and TV's to check any emergency reports or broadcasts concerning an emergency situation. Make sure to have adequate supplies of back-up power.
9. Minimize opening and closing of refrigerator and freezer to conserve the cold. If the temperature outside is cold enough (40 degrees Fahrenheit or lower), place food in cooler and place outside.
10. Think about alternative cooking methods in case of power outages. Some options are sterno cans or an outdoor propane gas grill. (For outdoor use only). Make sure your propane tank is filled, and consider the purchase of an extra tank.
11. Don't forget the MANUAL can opener! The "Spacemaker" won't be working in a power outage.
12. Minimize driving your car and prolonged warm-up periods to conserve gasoline. Remember, if the power is out, the gas stations are also experiencing difficulty pumping gas. (Know how to disable your electric garage door opener for manual use.)
13. Check out a full–service sporting goods store or camping supply store for countless options for cooking, home heating, and essential preparedness supplies.

DONT'S
1. Please DO NOT utilize any heating device within your home without examining all of the potential hazards associated with its usage. This would include utilizing a natural gas powered stove for heat or any device designed for outdoor use only.
2. Please DO NOT run your automobile in an enclosed area such as your garage at any time. It's NOT recommended to utilize the automobile as an alternate source of keeping warm. Carbon monoxide is a colorless and odorless gas that can lead to serious injury and/or death.
3. Please DO NOT operate a gas or diesel-powered generator from within your home or garage due to the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning.
4. Please DO NOT attempt to hook up a generator by yourself, make sure a licensed electrician installs the proper switch-over system.

EMERGENCY CONTACT WITH THE SAFETY FORCES
(Telecommunications Disruptions)
In the event we experience widespread telecommunications disruptions or failures (again attributable to any variety of causes), the following is a list of prioritized suggestions as to how contact may be made with the safety forces:

If, due to an emergency, you attempt to use "911" & you get no connection, hang up & re-dial the direct emergency phone number; for the Ann Arbor Fire Department call 994-2770 and for the Ann Arbor Police Department call 994-2911. There are several lines associated with the non-emergency number listed, which automatically roll over to other numbers not being used. The *Ann Arbor Fire Department non-emergency number is 994-2772*, this number can be used for citizen requests. The *non-emergency number for the Police Department is 994-2875*. Minor complaints such as criminal mischief reports, barking dogs, auto lockouts, and private property accident reports where no injuries occur are non-emergency type events that can wait several hours if not several days to report, particularly in times of a community crisis. You can stop by the Ann Arbor Police Station 24 hours a day at a later, more convenient date to file any type of report. Be considerate of the police and fire departments as they may be inundated with Emergency Services requests. Allow common sense to prevail, and please be patient.

If unable to make any connection with the Ann Arbor Police Department "911" or the non-emergency line, which is 994-2911, call the Ann Arbor Fire Department at 994-2770.

If your everyday phone system fails to function & you possess a cell-phone, then dial the following numbers directly:

cont.

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PAID FOR BY THE CITY OF ANN ARBOR

Ann Arbor Police Department 911
(734) 994-2911
Ann Arbor Fire Department 911
(734) 994-2770

Note: "911" can certainly be dialed; however, cell-phone dialing of "911" is routed through the Washtenaw County Sheriff's dispatch system, versus directly connected to the city dispatch center. It's important to know EXACTLY where you are!

If you experience an emergency and you are in critical need of the safety forces or other city services but your home phone system fails to function (which includes the "911" system) and you are without a cellular phone, then the only alternative is to walk, run, pedal, or drive to the nearest fire station to report an emergency. Police, Fire, EMS, and any other critically needed services may be obtained from any fire station.

The tremendous amount of work, time, and effort that the city-wide Y2K Planning Committee members have invested in this Community Wide Contingency Planning and Preparedness Project stands to greatly enhance our safety and security. If and when we ever face adversity brought on by a natural calamity or man-made disaster, we are better prepared to confront the dilemma with an enhanced level of confidence through thorough and effective planning. This, however, is but a portion of the successful resolution to a community-wide or localized disaster. It's the character, determination, and the volunteer nature of our residents and business community that will truly set us apart. Please consider these preparedness suggestions/recommendations and take action, beginning with your own household. More information about the city's Y2K efforts is available on the city's website at www.ci.ann-arbor.mi.us.

CUSTOMER SERVICE IMPROVEMENT AT THE CITY

City employees were recently recognized for their work on employee-driven customer service improvement initiatives. This work is helping make city operations more effective and easier for you to use. Here are just a few of the customer service improvement projects from the most recent fiscal year.

Building Department and Parks & Recreation Department.
Purchased a youth-sized table, books, puzzles and toys to entertain children while parents conduct business at the Building and Parks Dept service counters. The activity area helps keep children busy with quiet activities.

Community Development Department
Developed a reference guide to provide referrals to local agencies and services around frequently-asked questions and keywords, such as homelessness. The guide now assists CDD interns and office staff to provide information and avoid customer "run around."

Fire Department
Installed an all-weather pad at Station 6 (Briarwood) to host year-round fire safety education events involving the existing fire safety smoke house.

Information Technology Services Division
Installed a GIS computer application that can be easily accessed by employees to create geographically-defined addresses for mailing labels or documents in order to notify Ann Arbor citizens or landowners of City business practices.

Parks & Recreation/Golf Facilities
Conducted on-site customer evaluations to assess services and seek suggestions to improve external customer services at the City's golf facilities.

Planning Department
Created a city neighborhood map on the city's web site, which provides neighborhood boundaries and lists neighborhood groups, community organizations and contact people. This resource links citizens, city departments, petitioners, developers and others potentially impacted by a proposal or project. This information is frequently requested.

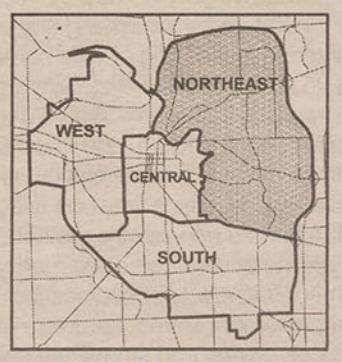
Solid Waste Department
Conducted evening focus groups with Ann Arbor residents to discuss solid waste services and improvement ideas. Additional focus group sessions were held in cooperation with U-M to reach students and waste education staff. Recommendations have been evaluated and applied to departmental improvement plans.

Solid Waste Department - Administration
Working with the National Federation of the Blind of Michigan, created recycling and refuse information sheets in large-sized print format for residents with reading difficulties. Copies are available at the public library and mailed upon request.

Solid Waste Department - Compost Center
Compost Center staff developed a staff rotation schedule and expanded sales procedures to provide uninterrupted compost sales and mechanical loading from 8-4 daily.

NORTHEAST AREA PLAN UPDATE

The City Planning Commission and Planning Department continue to host a series of public workshops on the Northeast Area Plan. The workshops began in June 1999 and have included sessions on history and demographics, visions for the future, identification of issues and problems, relevant master plans (the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor Township and the City's Parks Recreation and Open Space Plan) and natural systems. Upcoming workshop topics will include: public facilities, land use, and transportation. A Citizens Advisory Committee also has been formed to provide ideas and recommendations to the Planning Commission and staff on goals and objectives of the plan. For more information on workshop dates, the planning process or how you can become involved, contact the Planning Department at 994-2800. Information is also available on the Planning Department's web site which can be reached through the City of Ann Arbor at www.ci.ann-arbor.mi.us.



CITY OF ANN ARBOR PLANNING AREAS

Update from the Parks

CITY, DETROIT EDISON, & MICHCON RECEIVE HONORABLE MENTION IN SEMCOG COMPETITION

The Ann Arbor Department of Parks & Recreation, Detroit Edison and MichCon were recently awarded an honorable mention in the MAC/SEMCOG Joint Public Services Awards Program. This program honors local governmental units, school districts and private or non-profit organizations who are working together in providing outstanding joint public services within Southeast Michigan. The three organizations fund the Earth Day Festival held annually at the Science Center. Earth Day is free to the public, thanks to the generosity and the participation of MichCon and Detroit Edison.

DOES SNOW REALLY AFFECT YOUR GOLF SCORE?

For those "die-hard" golfers or golfers just looking for something different to do, the Ann Arbor Department of Parks & Recreation is offering two wintry events at Leslie Park Golf Course:

Annual Chili Open Golf Tournament:
Saturday, Jan. 8 $12/person
Annual Blizzard Ball Scramble:
Saturday, Feb. 12 $48/4-person team

Each tournament offers six holes of golf in the snow and piping hot refreshments! Pre-registration is necessary. Leslie Park Golf Course is located at 2120 Traver Rd. in Ann Arbor. Please call 971-6840 for registration information.

PAID FOR BY THE CITY OF ANN ARBOR

BEAT THE RUSH...

REGISTER EARLY FOR THE CORPORATE CHALLENGE 2000

Participants still have several months before they compete in the ***Corporate Challenge Canoe Race 2000.*** But Parks and Recreation organizers are offering companies an incentive to reserve a space now. ***Register by March 1 and pay only $295 (1999 price).*** Additional canoes would only cost $245. After March 1, entry fees go up to $325/first canoe. The Corporate Challenge Canoe Race is scheduled for ***Sunday, July 9, at Gallup Park boat launch at 11 am.*** The two-person canoes will have to row 3/4 mile, offering just the right amount of challenge to any canoeist. And competition is heating up for the Best Team Spirit Award which allows employees to do their part without ever leaving the shore!

Be among the first to sign up in the next century! ....and help kids in the process. All entry fees directly benefit the Recreation Scholarship Fund for disadvantaged families. Call 994-2284 for registration information or visit the city's website at **www.ci.ann-arbor.mi.us**, navigate to the Department of Parks & Recreation Special Messages. Thank-you, major sponsors! Ann Arbor News, Ann Arbor Subaru, Domino's Pizza, Parke-Davis, and KOOL 107FM Radio.

PARKS DEPARTMENT SELECTS "GOLDEN TROWEL" AWARD WINNERS

The Ann Arbor Park Advisory Commission, in cooperation with the Parks and Recreation Department and the Ann Arbor Garden Club, recognizes Ann Arbor individuals and businesses who work hard to beautify their surroundings with attractive landscaping and gardening. Created in 1986 by the Park Advisory Commission, the Golden Trowel applauds those who put forth a little extra effort in making our community a pleasant and enjoyable place in which to work and live. This year's winners are as follows:

INDIVIDUAL HOMEOWNER:
Barbara TenBroek - 310 Wilton
Sandorf J & Odes Elden - 1222 Bydding
John Cochrane - 1530 Edinborough
Julian & Emilia Mioc - 2411 Pittsfield Village Townhomes
Markeeta Graban - 2334 Parkwood Village Townhomes

COMMERCIAL:
Whole Foods Market - 2893 E. Stadium
Ann Arbor Woods Apts. - 2167 Medford
Windemere Park Apts. - Green at Nixon
Waldenwoods 2 - 1215-65 S. Maple

SPECIAL AWARDS:
Garrett Lussenden & Crew for City Hall and Sculpture Park
Tios for Garden at rear of restaurant, beautifying alleyway behind City Hall

BEAUTIFICATION OF PUBLIC SPACES:
Ernest Jones - 125 Beakes for flower beds in lawn extensions along Beakes and at the corner of Fourth Ave. and Beakes

Mark McGinn, John Kipfmiller and Buzz Tourbin, Indoor Comfort Co. - 416 W. Huron St. for Flower Beds on Ann Arbor Railroad Embankment

COMMERCIAL CONTINUING EXCELLENCE:
Village Townhomes- Pete & Julie Dodge (plantings throughout the Village)
2335 Fernwood

Forest Hills Cooperative Townhouses -
2351 Shadowood

NATURAL AREA PRESERVATION VOLUNTEERS: SAVING THE WORLD

This summer the Natural Area Preservation Division (NAP) of the City's Department of Parks and Recreation compiled volunteer statistics from July 1, 1998 to June 30, 1999 (the City of Ann Arbor's fiscal year) for NAP's annual report. As we compared last year's volunteer hours to those of previous years, we were amazed. In 1995-96 NAP had 1,163 volunteers hours. In 1996-97 we had 2,091 hours. In 1997-98 we had 2,310 hours. And last year (1998-99) volunteers contributed an astounding 3,359 hours to our program.

While numbers are useful to demonstrate change, they're only symbols. It's what these numbers represent—growth in stewardship of Ann Arbor's natural areas—that is truly exciting. Growth in stewardship means increased restoration, protection, support, and connection to the local remnants of wilderness which are so essential to our physical and psychological well-being.

The range of projects NAP's volunteers are involved in has grown fantastically over the years, as well. The very first NAP volunteers participated in workdays removing invasive shrubs. Today NAP's volunteers participate in workdays controlling several invasive plant species, rescuing native plants, controlling erosion, and collecting and cleaning seeds. They inventory breeding birds, frogs and toads, and butterflies. They are members of the prescribed burn crew, and they maintain native plant exhibit gardens. They assist with photo monitoring, and they write brochures to educate the public about natural areas. They adopt natural areas to steward, and they help with countless special projects. They are individuals, families, religious organizations, scouts, community service organizations, businesses, and school groups. Their contributions are tremendous and immeasurable.

It takes stamina, enthusiasm, and optimism to do this challenging work. Perhaps above all it takes courage. It's hard to stand up and do something to make the world a better place—that's why too few people do. But in the long run, it's much harder to live with the outcomes of apathy. NAP's volunteers understand this, more and more every year, and it seems to be what motivates them to undo the environmental damage caused by our ancestors, our parents, and ourselves. Some might say our volunteers are literally saving the world. Want to help? Call the Natural Area Preservation office at 996-3266 for more information.

HURON HILLS SKI CENTER GEARING UP FOR CROSS COUNTRY SKI SEASON

The Ann Arbor Department of Parks & Recreation will operate Huron Hills Cross Country Ski Center from Dec. 7 – March 7, if weather permits. The center provides groomed cross-country ski trails and equipment rental. Trails are open on weekdays from 10am - 6pm for $2.50/person and on weekends and holidays from 9 am - 7 pm at $3/person. Ski rental is $6/adults and $3.75/youths & seniors for weekdays and $7/adults and $4.75/youths & seniors on weekends and holidays. Instruction and season passes are also available.

As an added attraction, Moonlight Serenade is scheduled for Fridays, Jan. 14, Jan. 28, and Feb. 11, from 6:30 pm - 9 pm. Cross country ski under the stars on specially lighted ski paths. Regular trail fees and rental rates apply. Call 971-6840 for more information or stop by the Ski Center located at 3465 E. Huron River Dr. in Ann Arbor.

HURON PARKWAY GOES NATURAL

The City of Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation Department is overseeing the establishment of a native plant prairie on the medians of Huron Parkway, from Hubbard Road south to Lakehaven Drive, which is the entrance to Geddes Lakes. As such, 3.66 acres of turfgrass will be converted to native prairie.

The seed mix is comprised entirely of native plants of a Michigan genotype, and planting occurred in the fall. The seed contains 80% native wild flowers (forbs) and 20% native grasses, by weight. A cover crop of Virginia wild rye also was sown at the time of planting, to provide quick green up and overwintering cover. This "nurse" crop will die out in the spring, about the time the intended native plants begin to germinate.

PAID FOR BY THE CITY OF ANN ARBOR

The project is being overseen by professionals in the Forestry & Horticulture and Natural Area Preservation Divisions. The project was initiated by the Ann Arbor Department of Parks & Recreation in conjunction with the Elizabeth Dean Fund Committee, and is being funded through the current Park Maintenance and Repair Millage as part of the Natural Area Preservation Program.

The contractor, Michigan Wildflower Farm of Portland, Michigan, is a leading authority on ecological restoration and native plant establishment. They will provide all site preparation, seed procurement, planting, and a five-year follow up maintenance plan to ensure a high quality native prairie is created by 2004. A turf buffer will be maintained at all road edges and intersection areas so that the new plants will not create sight obstructions for motorists and pedestrians.

It will take a few years for the new plants to fill in, and some over seeding, mowing and prescribed burning will be required periodically to eliminate competition from weeds and unwanted woody plant volunteers. The Dean Fund may add appropriate native trees to the prairie in the future, after it has become well established. This is an exciting project, as it will provide restored habitat for plants native to Michigan, will reduce mowing expenses, and perhaps most importantly, will enhance the natural beauty of this pristine stretch of Huron Parkway.

If you would like more information about this project, please contact the Forestry & Horticulture Division at 994-2768.

PARKS & RECREATION STAFF ARE AUTHORS

Explore the thirteen natural areas along the Huron River through the pages of the brand new book, Along the Huron: The Natural Communities of the Huron River Corridor in Ann Arbor, Michigan written by The Natural Area Preservation Division of the Department of Parks and Recreation. The natural areas along the Huron River Corridor in Ann Arbor offer a wealth of opportunities to see some of nature's finest works. Now there is a guide which offers the interested explorer a greater depth of understanding of what has been preserved and restored for today's visitor and for future generations. Among the thirteen natural communities presented, one can see different ecosystems of marshes, meadows, prairies, old fields, shrub lands, and various types of forests. Each of the ecosystems offers common, rare, and extremely rare plants to discover and fascinating animals to see. This readable and easily accessible guide to thirteen gems along the river presents comprehensive trail information and accurate descriptions of the 630 acres of undeveloped greenspace in Ann Arbor. Each ecosystem is explained in understandable language. Maps of each natural area offer precise and detailed information of what you will see and where you will find what you are looking for. Tables and charts provide concise and informative comparisons of the parks. Useful illustrations and accurate descriptions of the plants, animals, and locations help the explorer get the most pleasure from a visit to every natural community presented in the book. This guide is the result of the work of more than fifty volunteers who assisted with the inventories of plants, amphibians, butterflies, and breeding birds along the Huron River, numerous volunteers who helped restore the native community, and the cooperation of staff from the University of Michigan and the Washtenaw County Department of Parks and Recreation. It is now available at Huron Hills Cross Country Ski Center and at the administrative offices of the Department of Parks & Recreation, 6th floor of the Larcom Municipal Building (City Hall). It is also available at Bivouac, Borders, Nicola's Books, Shaman Drum, WildBirds Unlimited, Wilderness Outfitters, and Ulrich's. For more information, please call 996-3266.

Earth Day Every Day

COMPOST PROGRAM AND HOLIDAY WASTE COLLECTION SCHEDULE

The weekly "Compostables" curbside collection service discontinues on the last day of November and resumes with the return of the growing season on Monday, April 3, 2000.

There will be no interruption of refuse and recycling collection service for Christmas Day, December 25, and New Year's Day, January 1, 2000 since these holidays fall on Saturday this year. However, the Drop-Off Station, at 2950 East Ellsworth Road, will be closed on Christmas Day, 1999 and New Year's Day, 2000.

HOLIDAY EVERGREEN TREE COLLECTION

Christmas trees are collected from the curbside on the normal weekly refuse days during a two-week period, starting the second full week of January. All tree stands, nails, ornaments, tinsel and plastic bags must be removed and discarded before placing out for collection. The trees are processed into a mulch sold to residents. Multi-family site managers can arrange for a special tree pickup by calling the Solid Waste Department at 994-2807.

Holiday trees may be dropped off 24-hours a day on the parking lot adjacent to the Drop-Off Station, 2950 E. Ellsworth, during December and January. After January, Christmas trees must be delivered to the Drop-Off Station during operating hours. Wreaths and evergreen roping are generally made with wire or plastic backing and should be placed with the trash.

EASIER CARDBOARD RECYCLING!

Responding to requests from residents and businesses to make cardboard recycling easier, the City's Solid Waste Department and contracted collector Recycle Ann Arbor have developed an easier preparation method.

Here's how it works: Residents and businesses may now "stuff" flattened boxes (up to 2' by 3') into another box (up to 12-18" deep, such as a copier paper box). Place the "stuffed boxes" next to recycling bins or carts for weekly collection.

The stuffed box technique eliminates the need to tie or tape together stacks of flattened cardboard. Of course, small flattened boxes and pizza boxes may continue to be put loose into the paper recycling bins, or tied into 6"-thick bundles up to 2'x3'. Wet cardboard, packing tape, mailing labels, pizza grease stains and staples are all acceptable to local buyers of cardboard. However, all packing foam must be removed and discarded.

As an alternative to cutting or folding boxes into 2'x3' size, large flattened boxes (such as refrigerator boxes) and large quantities of cardboard can be delivered by residents or businesses at no charge directly to the city's Drop-Off Station, 2950 E. Ellsworth Road near Platt, 971-7400.

The City of Ann Arbor is committed to providing excellent municipal services that enhance the quality of life for all through the intelligent use of our resources while valuing an open environment that fosters fair, sensitive and respectful treatment of all employees and the community we serve.

The purpose of *For The People*, The Ann Arbor City Government Newsletter, is to transmit factual information to the community from Ann Arbor city staff on a quarterly basis. Please send comments to:
City of Ann Arbor Public Information Office
100 N. Fifth Ave. • Ann Arbor, MI 48107
734.994.1766

PAID FOR BY THE CITY OF ANN ARBOR

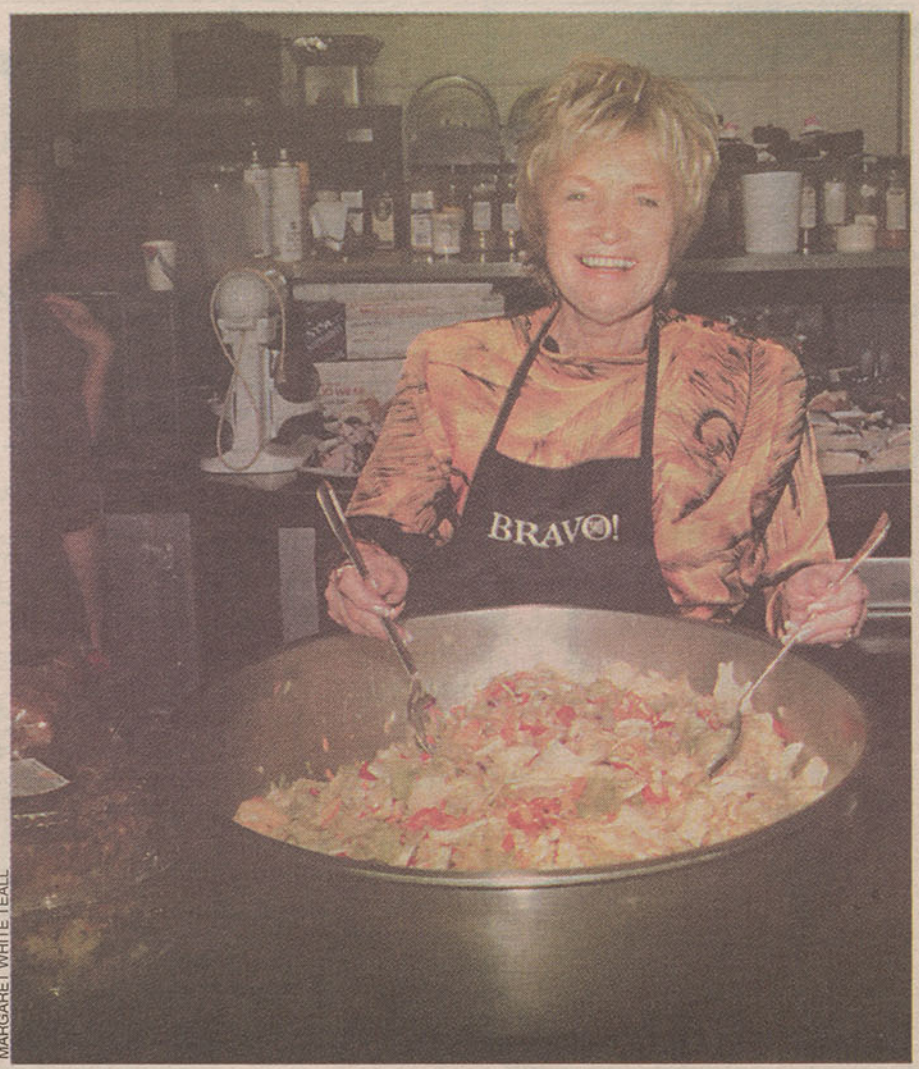
Maya Savarino

Habitat's champion started life as a refugee

Maya Savarino is a busy woman. On a Wednesday in early November, she's planning to spend the next couple of days helping her friend Stephanie Lord create decorations for two fund-raisers: the St. Joe's ball and a benefit for the U-M's Stearns Collection of musical instruments. Friday night she has tickets to the Ark's $100-a-head fall fund-raiser. Sunday afternoon she'll be front and center at a Habitat for Humanity house dedication in Ypsilanti, followed on Monday night by a Habitat board meeting (Savarino is president). Next Wednesday, she'll run First Presbyterian Church's monthly dinner for the homeless.

In a 1991 Observer article about Savarino's former companion, U-M political science professor Ray Tanter, she was described as a "wealthy blond socialite." Asked about that characterization, Savarino laughs. "I don't believe in wealthy blond socialites," she says. "It isn't an Ann Arbor term." Savarino *is* blond, financially secure, and irrepressibly sociable. But the truth about her, not surprisingly, is a lot more interesting than looks, money, and charity dinners.

Take her involvement with Habitat, which goes beyond dedication ceremonies and board meetings. For most of the last decade, Savarino has functioned as a virtual unpaid staff person for the housing group, at times spending up to forty hours a week in the office. She believes passionately that "everyone should have a home"—a conviction rooted in her own childhood as a homeless refugee after World War II.



MARGARET WHITE TEALL

Savarino, sixty-two, was born in Latvia just before the outbreak of the war. As the Russians advanced on Latvia in 1944, terrifying events enveloped her family. "My uncle was taken to Siberia and never heard from again," says Savarino. Maya's "strong, powerful, and courageous" mother, Ludmila Bagatais, decided to flee with her sister and Maya, leaving behind her father, brothers, and soldier husband.

Ludmila—"a beautiful woman who spoke five languages and had great powers of persuasion"—somehow bribed their way onto a freight car. After two desperate weeks, they made it to Germany. A telegram arrived six months later, informing them that Savarino's father had been killed by a bomb fragment. "The sorrow I experienced as a child made me a faithful person," Savarino says.

From 1945 until 1948, Savarino, her mother, and her aunt—a child scarcely older than Maya—lived in a small room in a camp for displaced persons. Then they came to America, to Detroit, where eleven-year-old Maya was placed in the first grade because she could not speak English. For the next few years, she concentrated on losing her accent and becoming an American. Her mom met a Latvian man, remarried, and had a son.

Savarino loved and admired her stepfather, a CPA, who died in 1977. She still marvels at his willingness to take on two kids and a woman with a passion for helping other displaced people—at least 200 stayed with her family at one time or other in their Southfield home. Today her mother, three times widowed, lives in Sedona, Arizona.

Savarino's mother—"a beautiful woman who spoke five languages and had great powers of persuasion"—somehow bribed their way onto a freight car.

After high school Savarino majored in special education at the U-M. In 1957 she met her future husband, Joe Savarino, at a local golf course. Joe had grown up in Hillsdale, the oldest of four siblings in an Italian American family. Joe's passions were music (he was an accomplished pianist) and golf, but he earned his living as an Ann Arbor developer. Looking back, Maya is certain that part of what attracted her was his close-knit family. "I romanticized what a real family would be like," she says. "I thought I had missed out on so much as a child."

When they married, Maya became a Catholic—her third church affiliation (in Europe she had been Russian Orthodox; in America she joined her stepfather's Lutheran church). Never halfhearted about anything, she attended Mass daily for thirteen years. By 1970 the Savarinos had three daughters and two sons, and Maya and the kids were busy with the usual school, church, and sports activities.

"Joe always provided for us," Maya says, but in 1975 she decided to take a job: the mother of five became a Fuller Brush man. Her friend Vi Jewett laughs, remembering Joe's exasperated complaints: "My God, I pick up the phone and someone wants to order a Bissell sweeper!" Her next job was delivering newspapers for the *Ann Arbor News*. Joe was not thrilled with his wife's career moves, but her five years on the route set a good example for their kids. "Children respect work," she says.

Joe Savarino was diagnosed with cancer in 1981 and died in 1985. That same year, Maya's mother moved to Arizona. "My husband died, my mother left me," is how Savarino describes the worst year in her adult life. For two years she walked most days from their home in Burns Park to Joe's grave at St. Thomas Cemetery on Sunset.

Though losing her husband was hard, Savarino believes it was also an opportunity for growth. She changed her diet, becoming involved in the Creative Health Institute in Coldwater, which emphasized eating wheat grass and raw foods. And she signed up for statistics and calculus classes at Washtenaw Community College.

In June 1987, two years to the day after Joe died, Maya was introduced to Ray Tanter at the opening dinner for the Ann Arbor Summer Festival. Later that night, Tanter took her dancing. By the end of the evening she was smitten. Most of Savarino's family, including her much-loved Savarino in-laws, deeply disapproved of the relationship. Worst of all, her mother could not accept her dating Tanter, who is black. "She never came back to Michigan," Maya says.

Tanter became her mentor, says Savarino, and maybe a bit of "the father I didn't experience." Together the couple bought a penthouse condo at One North Main with multiple patios and glorious views. They were a high-profile duo around town, dancing their way through parties and charity events. But in 1988, when Father Charlie Irvin at St. Francis told her to marry Tanter, she decided to switch churches instead. Claiming wryly that "the Catholics kicked me out," she and Tanter joined the "community-minded" Presbyterians. With Tanter's encouragement, Savarino went back to school at Marygrove College, where in 1993 she earned a master's degree in pastoral ministry.

The relationship began to unravel several years ago under the weight of her family's disapproval. Savarino is philosophical about the breakup: "You just somehow survive, manage to get up and do it." Tanter has retired from the U-M, moved to New York, and married. He and Savarino sold their penthouse in October. Each speaks well of the other. In a recent E-mail, Tanter compared his former companion to Eleanor Roosevelt: "Maya would rather light a candle than curse the darkness."

Savarino's nine-year tenure on the Habitat board will end in March. She isn't easily cajoled into discussing her future—a trait she attributes to her childhood, when the present was the only thing she could count on. When pressed, though, she does admit that one goal is to be part of a local Habitat house built entirely by women. It would be perfect, she explains, because she's always wanted to learn more about house construction and carpentry.

On Sunday, Savarino shows up at the house dedication in Ypsilanti wearing a bright purple Habitat T-shirt. She makes her way through the crowd gathered outside and hugs the new home owner. A few minutes later, at the ceremony inside the house, she is beaming. On a table is a large white cake with "Bless This House" in purple frosting.

As she listens to the prayers and speeches, Maya's eyes begin to glisten. It's one less displaced family.

—Penny Schreiber

Behind the glass

The stress runs high on both sides of the AAPD's front desk

by Lowell Cauffiel

Susie Cobb knows that Ann Arbor citizens can be a little—sensitive.

Cobb works at the police desk just inside the front door of city hall. She's the Community Service Assistant (CSA) taking reports from behind the security glass on the day shift.

"I had a guy walk in and say he needed to file a report that his roommate stole his turkey," Cobb recalls. "I asked, 'Was it alive?' I thought I might have to get Animal Control involved. He said, 'No, frozen. My roommate moved out and took *my* turkey.'"

They all have stories, the CSAs and police officers who work the front desk. A sampling:

A university professor arrives with a Folgers can, asking for a full investigation into the $7 missing from the office coffee pool. A pedestrian demands assault and battery charges against a motorist who tossed a cup from his window and hit her with "droplets" of water. A college student clutches a stick of antiperspirant, saying, "I caught him in the act. I suspected, but now I've got him. My roommate has been using my deodorant."

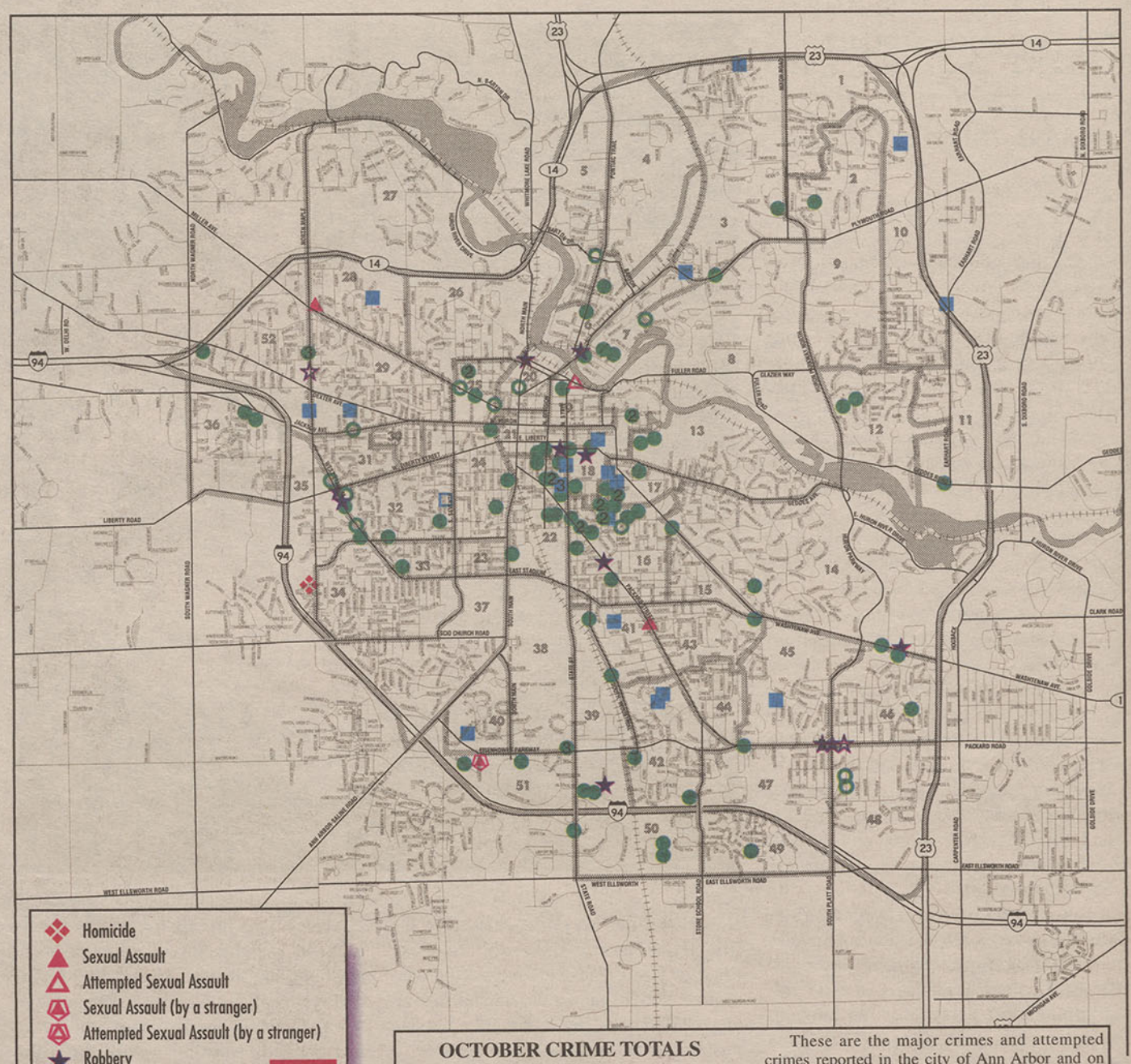
In a typical week, desk personnel will take more than 200 reports, release four dozen impounded cars, give directions to lost motorists, and be asked for loads of legal advice they aren't allowed to give—all while trying to appease a perpetual cast of mentally ill customers who report everything from alien stalkers to Beatle sightings on State Street.

The busiest periods unfold around the lunch and rush hours. Three phone lines can be ringing, the line at the desk a half dozen deep.

Cobb, who has a degree in marketing from Northern Michigan University, worked in customer relations in a large Ann Arbor beauty salon before joining the Police Department three years ago. Providing service to emotionally distressed people with legitimate complaints, she says, is the job's biggest challenge.

"I'm sympathetic to people who've had bad things happen," she says. "When we say we can follow up on something, it helps take the stress away for them. But the stress is on both sides of the glass."

Says sergeant Mike Logghe, "It's a real cold place to work in some ways, because you can't give people the attention you want. It's frustrating for both the citizen and the CSA. The CSAs know the citizens need the attention, but the volume often makes it impossible."



OCTOBER CRIME TOTALS
(including attempts)

	1999	1998
Burglaries	99	51
Sexual Assaults	4	5
Vehicle Thefts	21	21
Robberies	15	11
Homicides	1	1

These are the major crimes and attempted crimes reported in the city of Ann Arbor and on the University of Michigan campus during October. The symbols indicate the location within one block of all homicides, burglaries, vehicle thefts, sexual assaults, and robberies.

Numbers on the map identify neighborhoods. If you have information about a crime, call Neighborhood Watch at 994–8775 (Mon.–Fri. 9 a.m.–4 p.m.) or the anonymous 24-hour tip line at 996–3199. To report a crime on the U-M campus, call the university's department of public safety at 763–1131, or their anonymous tip line at (800) 863–1355.

Most CSAs find they need to be assigned to other details after a couple of years at the front desk. Cobb has been at headquarters since January. Logghe says CSAs also are assigned to district neighborhood offices, where citizens with complaints will find the pace considerably less hectic.

Accident reports and impounded cars account for the bulk of the downtown business, but major crimes also show up, sometimes well after the fact. Desk personnel fill out detailed reports on credit card fraud, break-ins, assaults, and stolen or lost property. Domestic violence and rape victims walk in; they're taken to private interview rooms. Last year, a Detroit murder suspect turned himself in to the front desk, saying he was there because he thought Ann Arbor cops would treat him fairly.

Cobb says she typically takes ten reports in a day. Police higher-ups review the reports and, if necessary, assign detectives or traffic investigators to follow up.

As for impounds, the city's Parking Violations Bureau tows most of the cars. But front desk workers, who must authorize release of vehicles after fines are paid, are the ones who hear the excuses and complaints.

People are not happy.

"The basic one is 'I didn't know I had that many parking tickets,' " says Cobb. "The one I heard the other day was a lady saying, 'I suppose you don't care I've been fighting with my husband all day. . . .' I said, 'Of course I care, but that doesn't change the fact that the parking department has taken your car.'"

Once, a parking scofflaw laughed hysterically and threatened to kill everyone working behind the glass.

But childish demands and frivolous complaints test the patience of desk personnel the most. "Ten to fifteen percent are totally absurd and a waste of time," Cobb says. "I'd rather have that extra time to spend with the person who has a real complaint so they can have a warm fuzzy about the department."

In Ann Arbor, she says, people go to the police simply because they're "offended," a word heard often at the front desk.

"Some people find it difficult to understand there's a difference between what is socially unacceptable and what is criminal. People come in and say they're offended at something someone did, such as being sworn at or called a nasty name. Basically, it boils down to that their feelings have been hurt.

"But even here, that is not a crime." ■

From Ecuador to Ann Arbor

A global migrant comes home

A friend writes:

The landmarks here: small brown birds hustle around making flight arrangements for wintertime. A crow swims the sky, cawing out its mantra, black flying through blue. Soft autumn light nestles in yellow leaves in an elm tree.

The landmarks there: a silent fog rolled in from the east, blooming in slow motion in the deep valley behind my apartment, hiding and revealing houses, trees, and steep fields on the other side. Some days, a snowcapped volcano appeared on the horizon at dawn. And a day's journey away, in the rain forest, though it seems like a dream now, an endless variety of animals—dolphins, caimans, capybaras, anacondas, macaws, toucans. And monkeys, many monkeys, running and jumping in the trees beside the river. The moon seemed an eggshell of cloud in the blue sky. Monkeys and eagles were kept as pets by people who lived in huts thatched with leaves.

We have no greater access to knowledge, much less any greater wisdom, than we had in previous generations. Our minds can still hold only the same sum total of information. Or is Steve Jobs somehow smarter than Socrates?

I just moved back to Ann Arbor from Ecuador for a while. For months I felt the contractions coming closer together, forcing me out of my adopted homeland. The economy kept worsening. In Quito, where I lived, the volcano on the western edge of the city threatened to erupt and shower the city with powdered stone. "It's always the poor who suffer most," said a sad waiter as he served me a plate of tofu and broccoli that would later give me food poisoning. "Those who live on the slope of the volcano have to find places to move their animals."

I didn't have any animals other than the spiders in my shower, and I didn't feel the economic crunch until I was robbed. I lived on my meager journalist's salary and some money I had earned in the States. Nothing was expensive. My rent was $40 a month. Theft was rising all around, but I thought I might be smart enough to avoid it. No such luck: I left my knapsack, loaded with gifts and with money that wasn't even mine, behind the counter of a rock shop. Four thieves followed me in and swiped it, along with $55 from the cash drawer. We're all in favor of redistribution of wealth until it happens to us.

Another reason to leave was the armed Colombians in my favorite part of the jungle. No one knew for sure whether they were left-wing guerrillas or right-wing paramilitaries. Some of them kidnapped twelve tourists and oil workers forty kilometers away during the last week I was visiting there. The same day another group of them crossed the river 500 meters from the hut where my friend and I were staying. Over 800 people are currently being held hostage in Colombia.

Globalization—a word I first met in Spanish—means our range is expanding, increasing our reliance on E-mail and making it hard for some of us to stay on one continent. We have no greater access to knowledge, much less any greater wisdom, than we had in previous generations. Our minds can still hold only the same sum total of information. Or is Steve Jobs somehow smarter than Socrates? If you or I go to the jungle, 99 percent of the information obvious to a native will be illegible to us. I was walking with an old shaman when he stopped suddenly amid the orchestral cacophony of sounds. "There's a nest of baby parrots in there," he said, pointing to a hollow tree four meters away. Two weeks later we were in a restaurant in town and he had to ask me to turn on the light in the bathroom for him. His father carried a spear; he carries a shotgun. His son is a tour guide and his granddaughter a computer whiz.

I went to Ecuador to learn shamanism. My experience convinced me that it both works and doesn't work. Malpractice is occasionally censured by shooting the practitioner. One backhanded compliment to my achievement is that I was falsely accused of attempting to kill someone with magic—an Austrian psychiatrist, no less. But I did build up a small practice as a healer.

Back in Ann Arbor, none of the books in Borders has what I'm looking for. Outside the window the gray sky is empty, hollow. I look around at all the new people in town, faces full of intelligence, confusion, seriousness. Speakers of fifty languages, gathered here to think. . . .

Like many global migrants, I left someone behind. Thinking about her, I walk to the Arboretum and watch the leaves turning. The trees whisper with millions of tongues, in this wind that just blew in from Angola and Kazakhstan. My soul tumbles lightly on the wind, in limbo between the Huron and the Amazon. ■

The entire staff at

AA ALARMS, INC.

wishes you a happy holiday season. We also want to express our sincere thanks for your valued business as we look forward to serving you in the year 2000!

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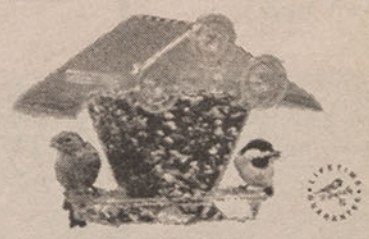

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The Top Ten Ann Arbor Stories of the MILLENNIUM

Why go back only a century? From the flight of Native Americans to the arrival of German immigrants, here are the stories of ten great changes that forever altered life in this tree-filled river valley.

1 Southeast Michigan Depopulated *circa 1300–1450*

The Native Americans in Michigan at the turn of the last millennium lived in secluded villages in river valleys among endless oak-hickory and beech-maple forests. In warm seasons they worked the land with digging sticks and hoes, growing corn, beans, and squash, and in the winters they left their villages to hunt deer with bows and arrows. They thought of their lives and their history as moving in cycles—and would, of course, have been baffled by the idea of a "Top Ten Stories" list. Momentous events that we would call "historic" were for them the stuff of myths, whose heroes confronted universal, eternal struggles.

Still, the great upheaval that began around 1300 surely must have made for new, epic tales. All across the Lower Peninsula, villages and people disappeared. Other villages built defensive palisades, suggesting an era of endemic warfare. Archaeologists speculate that two forces may have driven the changes: Michigan got colder, and the Native Americans who lived here came into increased contact with an advanced culture from the south.

Starting around 1300, Michigan's climate went through a cold, dry period that lasted for 150 years. For people who'd depended on farming for centuries, the change must have been disastrous, causing starvation, mass migration, and possibly war over stockpiled food.

Also around 1300, emissaries of the Upper Mississippian civilization began to travel north to Michigan from their center at Cahokia, near present-day St. Louis. The Mississippians' trade network stretched all the way from Lake Superior to the Gulf Coast, and they apparently exchanged seashells from the gulf for Michigan animal skins and furs. But the upheaval that followed the appearance of the Upper Mississippians leads some scholars to believe that their visits were not always friendly. Like the military cultures of Mexico, they were warlike, theocratic sun-worshippers who sometimes buried human sacrifices beneath their immense, flat-topped pyramids.

Whether fleeing the Mississippians or searching for a better place to farm, most of southeast Michigan's residents were gone by 1450. Scholars tend to think they migrated eastward into Ontario, where they merged into the peoples who became the Iroquois.

—Erick Trickey

2 White Plagues and the Iroquois Wars *circa 1640s–1650s*

Native peoples reestablished themselves in southern Michigan once the climate warmed again. But in the mid-seventeenth century, they were hit by two more devastating blows—both part of a chain reaction set off by the arrival of the first European settlers in North America.

First, deadly diseases moved west from the British colonies along the Atlantic coast. Then, tribal skirmishes, encouraged by the fur and firearms trade, grew into a sixty-year war that spread across the Great Lakes and drove the entire population of the Lower Peninsula west to Wisconsin.

Between 1633 and 1640, epidemics of smallpox and what was probably scarlet fever swept west from New England and New York into Ontario. Half or more of the Huron, a tribe living near the lake that now bears their name, died of the plagues. Although neither Native Americans nor Europeans had knowledge of germs, the Huron correctly guessed that the diseases were somehow linked to the strange, pale Frenchmen who had come among them trading manufactured goods for animal pelts. They even got rid of their French-made kettles in a futile effort to stop the plagues.

The plagues next would have struck the Algonquian, who lived in Michigan and traded with the Huron. Though no Europeans were here to record it, the epidemics would surely have laid waste to many of the Algonquians' densely inhabited agricultural villages.

Meanwhile, the surviving Huron clashed with the Iroquois of New York, their longtime rivals, in increasingly intense battles. The Iroquois had decimated the beaver population in New York to supply Dutch fur traders; now they wanted to take over the Great Lakes' plentiful fur trade as well. In 1649, the Iroquois launched a major offensive, armed with Dutch guns. Weak from disease, the Huron were routed from Ontario.

The Iroquois carried their war to Michigan in the early 1650s, raiding the Algonquians and driving them out of the Lower Peninsula. Several tribes—Potawatomi, Miami, Ottawa—resettled near Green Bay. The war went on for another fifty years, although luck slowly turned against the Iroquois starting in 1662, when Algonquian tribes won a major battle near Sault Ste. Marie.

By the time the French explorer Robert Cavelier, Sieur de La Salle, explored the southern Lower Peninsula in 1680, some Potawatomi and Mascouten had returned to southwest Michigan, but they were so nervous about being attacked that they mistook the French explorers for an Iroquois war party. (La Salle's bright idea of leaving Iroquois symbols on trees to scare away the locals almost got him killed by angry Mascouten.) By 1687, the Iroquois were beaten back to New York, and the Algonquian tribes returned to their ancestral lands.

—Erick Trickey

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Potawatomi women shucking corn. The densely settled farming villages of southern Michigan must have been hard hit by European plagues in the 1640s.

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3 The Potawatomi Sell Out *1807*

The biggest land deal in Ann Arbor history took place in November 1807, when the Huron River Potawatomi and their allies signed away all of southeast Michigan, including Washtenaw County, to the federal government for $10,000 in cash and goods, plus the promise of a $2,400 annual payment in perpetuity.

Though Congress had created Michigan Territory two years earlier, the only land the United States actually owned and could distribute to settlers was a narrow strip along the Detroit River. So the secretary of war wrote Michigan's new governor, General William Hull, and told him to get the local Indians together and buy their land from them—but to keep the price below 2¢ an acre, or 1¢ if possible.

Though most Potawatomi lived in southwest Michigan and northern Indiana, some bands also lived near present-day Ypsilanti and Saline. The Huron River Potawatomi, as they were referred to in treaties they signed, were the descendants of a band who moved east in the 1710s to establish a village near Detroit. They formed a long-lasting alliance with the French but didn't get along as well with the British, who took over Detroit in 1760 and, unlike the French, wouldn't share their gunpowder, lead shot, or rum. In 1763 the Potawatomi and other area tribes besieged Detroit, but when reinforcements and supplies made it into the fort by boat, the Potawatomi withdrew from the fighting and set up villages in present-day Washtenaw County.

The Huron River Potawatomi fought alongside neighboring tribes against the United States in the war over Ohio in the 1790s. But a series of bitter defeats convinced their chiefs that they had to cooperate with the United States. "We are determined to bury the hatchet so deep and so secret that it will never again be found," promised Okia, a chief of the Huron River Potawatomi, when he signed an armistice after the war.

Still, when tensions between the United States and the British were high in fall 1807, General Hull gave the tribal chiefs of southeast Michigan a stern warning to remain neutral if war came, a warning that he said came straight from President Jefferson: "If ever we are constrained to lift the hatchet against any tribe, we will never lay it down till that tribe is exterminated, or driven beyond the Mississippi." Nanaume, a Huron River Potawatomi chief, acknowledged that the tribes lived under the protection of the United States and promised Hull that they would "remain quiet spectators of your quarrels."

The Treaty of Detroit was apparently signed at that same meeting. The Huron River Potawatomi's share of the deal was $1,667 plus the promise of $400 more a year—a price that fulfilled Hull's pennies-an-acre goal.

The Potawatomi bands probably stayed in the Huron Valley about another decade before heading west to join the rest of their tribe near Kalamazoo. Some Potawatomi

fought against the Americans in the War of 1812—presumably younger warriors, inspired by Tecumseh, who opposed their chiefs' cooperation with the United States government. An epidemic of what was probably whooping cough spread through their villages in 1813. Chiefs from the Huron River signed treaties in 1815 and 1817. But a trading post that had been established on the site of present-day Ypsilanti in 1809 closed in 1820, apparently because there weren't many natives left to trade with. When white settlers arrived in the mid-1820s, they encountered only a few Potawatomi stragglers.

—Erick Trickey

4 The Developers Arrive *1824*

John Allen, cofounder of Ann Arbor.

In February 1824, John Allen and Elisha and Mary Ann Rumsey set up camp on the bank of a small stream they dubbed Allen's Creek. The partners had just bought a square mile of the Michigan frontier in hopes of making their fortune. As they prepared to build the town they later named Ann Arbor, they thought they were taking possession of a virgin wilderness.

It was an easy mistake to make. Most of the area's previous inhabitants—the Potawatomi—had abandoned their last villages in Washtenaw County at least five years before Allen and Rumsey arrived. Moreover, there is no evidence that Ann Arbor proper had ever been home to a Potawatomi village.

No one had a better perspective on the new owners' ambitious plans, however, than the area's few remaining Native Americans. As streets were laid out and cabins built, they saw their familiar landscapes irrevocably transformed by the newcomers' industry and enterprise. Echoing the sound of its churning grist mills, the Potawatomi dubbed the new town *Kaw-goosh-kaw-nick*.

Though Allen and Rumsey didn't realize it, the Potawatomi themselves were responsible for a key feature that attracted the two men to the site. In a letter, Allen noted that his new town was full of farmland "which nature had already made clear," evidently a reference to the oak barrens running west from the edge of downtown out into Scio Township.

Although nature undoubtedly had something to do with this convenient feature of the local landscape, chances are the vanished Potawatomi—and *their* predecessors—had even more to do with it. The openings had been preserved, and even partly created, by centuries of intentional burning. The grassy floor of what one early visitor called "a beautiful burr oak plain" suggests that the last burn was not long before the settlers arrived.

Even the oak trees—which became Ann Arbor's symbol—would not have been here without the Potawatomis' intervention. Normally, oak woods gradually give way to a "climax" forest of beeches and maples, whose seedlings can grow in deep shade. But thanks to the sunny clearings, acorns continued to sprout, and oaks remained the area's dominant species.

The Potawatomi themselves probably weren't aware of that effect. They burned to create a habitat for themselves: to maintain forest openings and trails, to encourage wild food plants or the striplings whose fibers were used to make baskets and clothing, and to fertilize cropland. Theirs was a way of inhabiting the landscape that made it all but impossible to know what was natural and what was artificial.

Allen and Rumsey, like settlers everywhere, changed all that. Ann Arbor has never stopped humming since. Eventually even Allen's Creek would disappear into an enclosed drain. And eventually established residents would begin to look upon land developers and real estate speculators, the Allens and Rumseys of today, as alien threats to a pristine landscape—as if they were themselves living somewhere other than *Kaw-goosh-kaw-nick*.

—John Hinchey

5 Germans Build Ann Arbor *1830–1940*

Heinzman & Sons harness shop, c. 1885.

What a contrast to Ann Arbor's go-getter Yankee founders were the many Germans who soon followed! The town's earliest settlers were driven by get-rich-quick visions of real estate speculation and, later, manufacturing empires. But the Germans who began migrating to Ann Arbor in the 1830s valued skill in one's trade or craft over riches or show. They built most of the pre–World War II homes in Ann Arbor and dominated city life and business well into the twentieth century.

The migration began when a native of Swabia (Schwabenland), the region of southwestern Germany around Stuttgart, moved to Washtenaw County in 1830. His letters to friends and relatives back home were so enthusiastic that later that year, ten German families settled in Lodi Township, just west of the infant town of Ann Arbor. ▸

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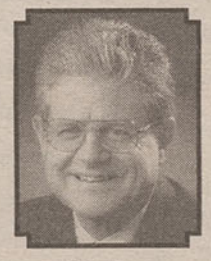

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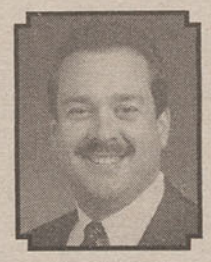

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MILLENNIUM *continued*

The Swabians founded what is now Bethlehem Church and wrote to Basel Mission House in Switzerland, a center of German evangelism, requesting a German-speaking minister. The mission sent them Friedrich Schmid. A monumentally devoted and energetic young missionary, Schmid rode out on horseback, over primitive roads, to help establish German congregations in Detroit, Monroe, northern Ohio, and Frankenmuth.

Washtenaw County soon filled up with destitute and politically disillusioned Germans. Many of Germany's states were under the control of reactionary governments, farmers were suffering from crop failures, and the industrial revolution was putting village craftsmen out of work.

While farmers settled the surrounding countryside, Ann Arbor gained tanners, bakers, blacksmiths, and building tradesmen. By 1880 Germans made up half of Ann Arbor's population and dominated the Old West Side. By 1900 they were Ann Arbor's leading bankers, retailers, and industrialists. German was heard constantly on Ann Arbor's streets, and there was a daily German newspaper and a German-language school.

German-American culture was famous for its clubs. Wurster Park on Madison Street was once the Germans' Turner Park, used for gymnastics and riflery. (The cul-de-sac Turner Park Court preserves its memory.) Germans had many singing societies and bands; their passion for music led to one of the few places where town and gown mingled—concerts of the University Musical Society, which German townspeople helped form.

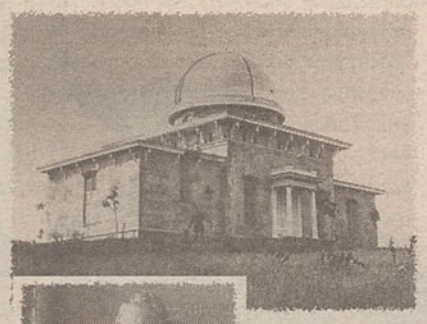
But the Germans clashed with the U-M's puritanical academics when waves of prohibition fever hit town, as one did in the 1880s. Germans loved their beer gardens, relished a good tavern, and bought beer by the bucket straight from the brewery. German Sunday gatherings combined beer, music, dancing, and a convivial family atmosphere including all social classes and all ages, from grandparents to babies.

World War I and the anti-German feelings it whipped up were a great blow to German culture in Ann Arbor. The university's huge German department was virtually destroyed, and the German newspaper switched to English. Afterwards, assimilation and intermarriage helped further dilute the German presence. When Metzger's closed in 1999, the city was left with only one German restaurant, the Heidelberg. Legendary Schlenker Hardware has been remodeled for offices.

But living vestiges of Ann Arbor's German heritage remain, in Vogel's Locksmiths downtown, Ehnis & Sons workclothes store, and the Schwaben Verein on Ashley. Two German taverns from the late 1800s are still in business, the Old Town and the Del Rio. Traditionally German churches are among the biggest in town. And if you walk on the sidewalks of the Old West Side, you may still see an elderly person, 100 percent German, tending a neat yard. Just as they mostly stuck to a trade, these folks weren't inclined to move into grander homes as they prospered. They didn't need mansions to feel rich.

—Don Hunt

6 President Tappan Fired *1863*



U-M president Henry Tappan and his beloved 1854 Detroit Observatory.

"Tall, erect, dignified, commanding, majestic, you might have thought him Jove with his hands full of thunderbolts." That was how a member of the U-M class of 1861 described Henry Philip Tappan, the fabled first president of the University of Michigan.

Tappan was already internationally recognized as a Platonic philosopher and educator when he arrived in Ann Arbor in 1852, intent on realizing his long-held dream of overseeing the creation of a modern university. He succeeded beyond anyone's expectations, but in June 1863 he was summarily axed by the Board of Regents. The firing, during a secret midnight session convened mere hours before the regents' terms expired, remains a sublime irony to this day, because Tappan's brief tenure as president is arguably the most important event in the history of the U-M.

"Tappan was the largest figure of a man that ever appeared on the Michigan campus," said James B. Angell, the U-M's third president. By combining the traditional academic study of the classics with basic and applied science, Tappan made Michigan the first American research university, predating Johns Hopkins by twenty years.

Yet this great visionary, in Angell's words, "was stung to death by gnats." The King of the Gnats was regent Levi Bishop of Detroit, who from the moment he took office in 1858 was determined to get rid of Tappan. Described by a contemporary as "a most rantankerous Democrat, bitter and venomous," Bishop excoriated Tappan in a letter-writing campaign to the *Detroit Free Press*. "The Doctor likes to button up his coat and stretch himself at full length, and is generally on excellent terms with himself," read one letter, while another attacked Tappan's beloved observatory as "almost entirely useless to the university." What made the letters especially bizarre was that Bishop signed them with the names of imaginary citizens around the state.

Tappan was not a perfect man. Though beloved of many students, faculty, and citizens, he suffered from an "unfortunate obtuseness to other men's feelings," wrote his biographer, Charles Perry. He once reproved a professor in front of several regents. And Tappan could be condescending. "His great virtue was farsightedness," Perry wrote. "In the bramble of immediate human relationships he was soon lost."

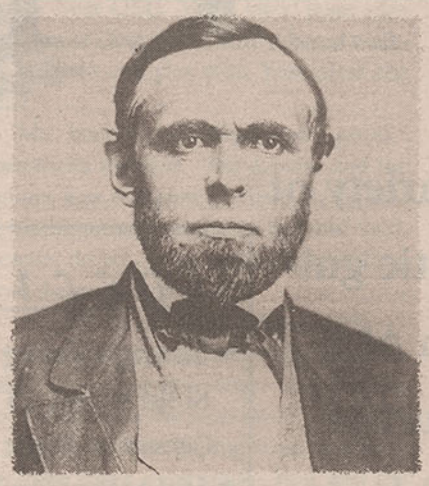
Many mistook Tappan's dignity for pomposity. He was criticized for his eastern accent, for drinking wine with his meals, for hiring "Prussians," for attending more than one church, for taking a nonsectarian approach to higher education, for supporting the abolition of slavery, and for refusing to defer to the regents' desire to micromanage university business.

Caught unprepared by the regents' sneak attack, Tappan's defenders mobilized too late. Protests over his firing lasted into the fall of 1863. Editorials railed against the decision, students burned the regents in effigy, and numerous plots were hatched to reinstate him. Even alumni got involved, convening a meeting at Union army headquarters before the battle of Vicksburg.

But when Tappan left Ann Arbor in September 1863, his work was done. He had presided over the formation of a great university. Nearly 150 years after Henry Tappan arrived in Ann Arbor, his personality, philosophy of education, and high ideals still reverberate at the U-M.

—Penny Schreiber

7 Silas Douglas Cleans Up Town *1871*



Mayor Silas Douglas, man of rectitude.

After the Civil War, returning veterans swelled the U-M's enrollment—and brought Ann Arbor new headaches. Older, tougher, and more numerous than ever before, the students got increasingly out of control.

There were brawls on city streets, loud "howlings" in the middle of the night, and destructive pranks, including torn-up wooden sidewalks. Dozens of saloons stayed open from early in the morning to late at night, brazenly ignoring regulations that required them to close on Sunday and keep students from drinking. U-M president Erastus Haven complained that Ann Arbor was "disgraced . . . all over the country" as a place of "revelry and intoxication."

Hoping to reverse this disorderly tide, citizens turned to Silas Douglas, the first U-M faculty member to be elected mayor of Ann Arbor. Voters swept him into office in 1871 with a mandate to crack down on drinking, gaming, and rowdyism. From his Huron Street porch on election night, Douglas proclaimed "victory in behalf of those good moral influences that should prevail in our university city."

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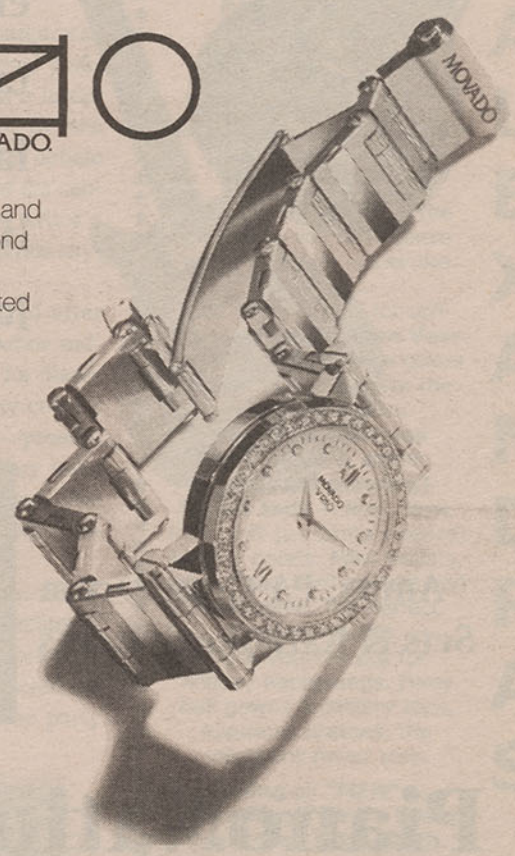

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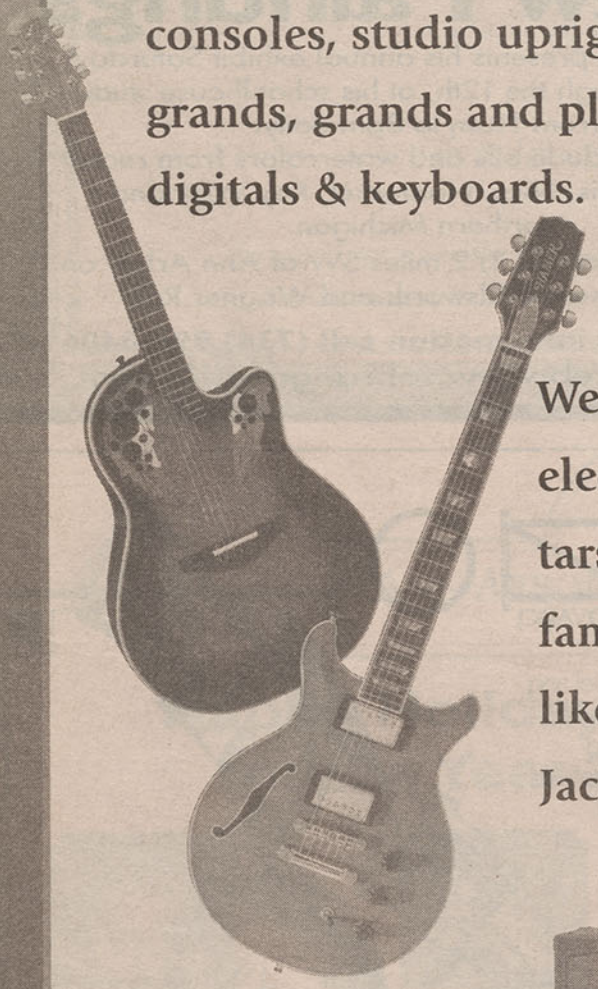

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As mayor, Douglas worked with the city marshal and the Common Council to eliminate gambling halls, close saloons on Sunday, and systematize liquor licensing. His administration's crowning achievement was the establishment of a full-time police force. By the time Douglas's second term as mayor ended in 1873, his success in turning Ann Arbor from a frontier town into a regulated city had earned him respect even from the opposition Republican newspaper.

It made sense that Ann Arbor voters turned to Douglas—the man who literally "illuminated" the town with gas streetlights—when they wanted an effective and righteous mayor. He had come west in 1844 to teach geology and chemistry at the then fledgling university, and he soon helped establish the U-M's medical department, the campus waterworks, and several science buildings. He organized Ann Arbor's first gas company in 1859 and served as its president for twenty years. He was president of the Toledo and Ann Arbor Railroad. A vestryman at St. Andrew's for two decades, he contributed generously to the construction of the congregation's present church on Division Street.

But rough spots can hide along paths of righteousness. Two years after Douglas stepped down as mayor, he was implicated in a divisive scandal at the university. Several thousand dollars had turned up missing from the chemistry lab; a huge argument resulted over whether the culprit was Douglas or another professor, Preston Rose. The dispute split the regents into two camps and pitted Douglas's fellow Episcopalians against Rose's Methodists. Even congressmen took sides.

Douglas was found guilty and dismissed from the U-M in 1877. Four years later, he was vindicated by the Michigan Supreme Court—but not before he had filled many scrapbook pages with editorials calling him "domineering," "officious," and full of "shameless contradictions."

The Douglas home on Huron Street is now owned by the First Baptist Church. It houses the church's campus ministry—whose students, according to one church member, are encouraged to "follow their conscience on all matters, including drinking."

—Mary Beth Lewis

8 Michigan Stadium Opens *1927*

When U-M athletic director Fielding Yost proposed building the biggest college football stadium in the country, even the regents had their doubts. An administrator wrote to warn Yost that the regents felt "amateur college contests should not be transformed into public spectacles."

They were a little late. Hired as football coach in 1901, Yost had long since made U-M football a mass phenomenon. After also becoming AD in 1921, he doubled the seating capacity at Ferry Field, to 42,000, and began laying plans for Michigan Stadium.

Yost responded to the regents' rebuff by drumming up support among football-loving students, alumni, and state legislators. Even nonfans were won over by his promise to invest stadium revenues in new facilities for ordinary students. Just two years after the initial rejection, he won approval for a huge package that included construction of the U-M golf course, new buildings for intramural and women's athletics—and a 70,000-seat football stadium.

"It was the biggest damn hole in the ground I ever saw," one player who watched the construction later recalled. The yawning earth-and-concrete basin could seat Ann Arbor's entire population twice over—yet even before it was finished, Yost raised its capacity to 85,000. He sold every seat for the dedication game against Ohio State on October 22, 1927.

The Wolverines celebrated with a 27-0 victory over OSU. Years later, team captain Bennie Oosterbaan remembered walking back to campus with Yost after the game.

"Mr. Yost was feeling pretty good," Oosterbaan recalled. "We'd won, and the stadium was completely filled. He lighted up his cigar and turned to me and said, 'Bennie, do you know what the best thing about the new stadium is?'

" 'No, Mr. Yost,' I said. 'What is it?'

" 'Eighty-five thousand people paid five dollars apiece for their seats—and Bennie, they had to *leave the seats there.*' "

Fans have been buying seats and leaving them there ever since. Yost and his successors tapped the stadium's rich cash flow to build an athletic dynasty, earning national championships in everything from hockey to gymnastics. Football games have sold out continuously for decades, and after a recent expansion, Michigan Stadium is once again the largest football venue in the country.

But the U-M, like other schools, has paid a price for its involvement in public spectacles. Some prep stars now treat college as an unpaid apprenticeship, dropping out at their first chance to join the pros. And the hangers-on hoping to curry favor with these millionaires-in-waiting make it hard to enforce the amateur status that the NCAA demands of college athletes. Witness the tragedy of former basketball coach Steve Fisher: hailed as a hero when he won the NCAA tournament and then recruited the Fab Five, he ended up being fired amid allegations that his players had taken gifts from a U-M booster.

Such tensions led former U-M president Jim Duderstadt to conclude that college football and basketball have been "captured by the entertainment industry," to the detriment of academic values. But Duderstadt's proposals to break the embrace—going back to the single-platoon system in football and greatly abbreviating the NCAA basketball tournament—have so far fallen on deaf ears.

After all, Duderstadt himself cheerfully took part in the "public spectacles" at Michigan Stadium. For better or worse, the U-M's sports megalomania was cast in concrete by Fielding Yost in 1927.

—John Hilton

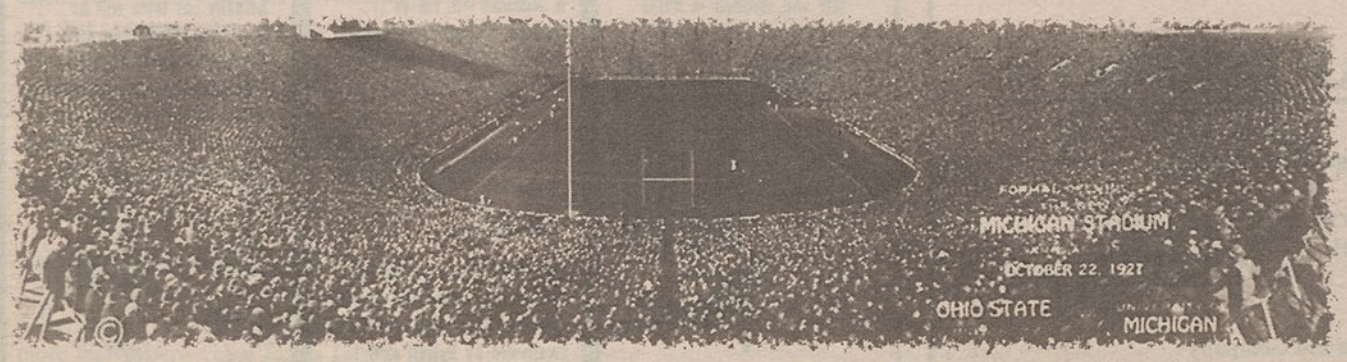
9 First Parking Structure Opens *1949*

Ann Arbor's pioneering parkers.

When Mayor Bill Brown inaugurated the world's first municipally owned parking structure, he made Ann Arbor a leader in the parking field. Little did Brown know that he was also starting a debate that would continue for the rest of the century—shaping downtown Ann Arbor's character in ways that neither he nor anyone else could have imagined.

When gas rationing was lifted after World War II, downtown Ann Arbor suddenly filled with drivers looking for places to park. Brown convinced the city council to put in parking meters in 1945—promising that they would be a temporary measure until the problem was solved. The meters cost 5¢ an hour, which people complained added up to 40¢ a day.

Brown used the meter revenue to finance a three-story, 184-space structure at Washington and First streets. He celebrated its 1949 opening in his characteristic bombastic style, hosting a rooftop party



In 1927, Michigan Stadium could seat Ann Arbor's entire population twice over.

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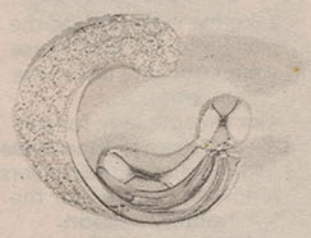

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TOM COPI

A Cadillac heads up a student strike parade on State Street, 1968.

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Brown went on to promote municipal parking structures in cities around the nation and the world. Ann Arbor built four more structures in the 1950s and 1960s and another two in the 1980s. Yet no amount of downtown parking could halt the migration of basic retailing to the city's suburban fringe, a movement that began with the opening of Arborland in 1961 and accelerated after Briarwood was completed in 1973. The last downtown department stores, Jacobson's and Kline's, left in the mid-1990s.

But the feared "death of downtown" never happened. For decades, the structures weren't attended in the evenings, because they were intended to serve shoppers and office workers. The free evening parking made it easy for people to come downtown for dinner—and helped launch the restaurant boom. Downtown's restaurants, and a new generation of specialty stores that match their late hours, now draw patrons from all over southeast Michigan. Upper-story loft conversions ensure that there are people on the street even after the stores and restaurants close. And service-related businesses, such as software manufacturers and architects, are locating downtown because their workers want to be where things are happening.

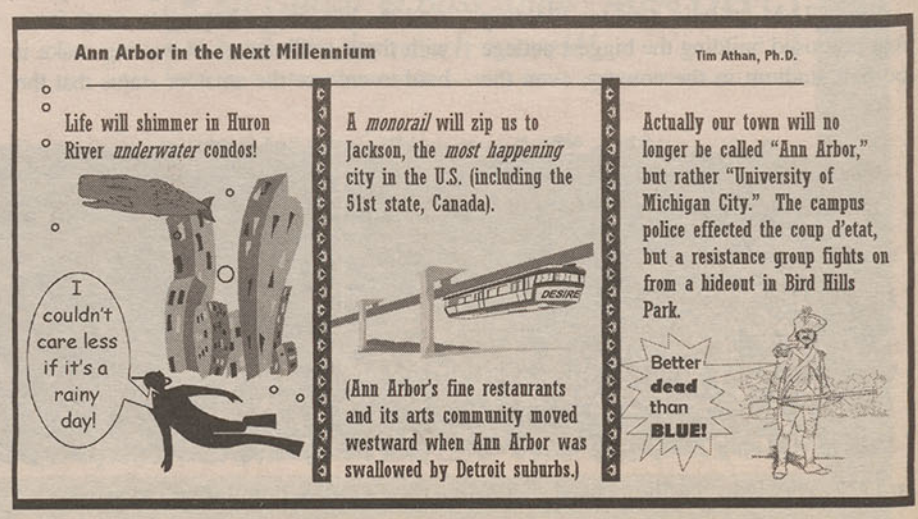
But downtown's success means parking is still a problem. Although there are now seven structures with 3,700 spaces, plus 500 spaces in lots and 1,513 metered curbside spaces, people can still have trouble finding a parking place.

Today, parking may be the biggest political issue in the city. Decades-old parking structures have started to fall apart. To pay for the huge cost of repairing or replacing them, structure parking now costs as much as $1.20 an hour. Fees are now collected far into the evening, and scofflaws are tracked down by a team of strict parking enforcers; the city made almost $2.7 million from the fines they issued in 1998.

To find the right mix of businesses and parking, developers and the city consider options Brown probably never dreamed of—underground parking, satellite parking, mixed-use structures, private-public partnerships, and Downtown Development Authority funding. Social issues such as low-income housing, building on floodplains, and alternative fuels are drawn into the debate.

And there's no end in sight. Because if there's anything as durable as Ann Arbor's shortage of downtown parking, it's our abundance of opinions on what to do about it. "Everyone has a car," laughs DDA director Susan Pollay. "Ergo, everyone is a parking expert."

—Grace Shackman


Ann Arbor in the Next Millennium
Tim Athan, Ph.D.
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(Ann Arbor's fine restaurants and its arts community moved westward when Ann Arbor was swallowed by Detroit suburbs.)
Actually our town will no longer be called "Ann Arbor," but rather "University of Michigan City." The campus police effected the coup d'etat, but a resistance group fights on from a hideout in Bird Hills Park.
Better dead than BLUE!

10 Counterculture Transforms City *1964-1974*

Ann Arbor was one of the flash points of the 1960s. Lifelong residents watched, aghast, as the quiet Republican town transformed itself into a haven for the counterculture and a center of antiwar activity. Long-haired, pot-smoking young people seemed determined to both stop the Vietnam War and reinvent Ann Arbor. They held rock concerts in the parks, started a free medical clinic, and opened up vegetarian restaurants. Less benign were events like the "liberation" of South University Avenue—a three-day clash of kids and cops in 1969 that started as a party and grew into a riot.

Thousands of students (and more than a few middle-aged faculty) rode buses from Ann Arbor to Washington, D.C., for antiwar protests. On a national day of protest in 1969, Michigan Stadium hosted one of the largest rallies in the country.

Demonstrations made the war a local issue. "Every time Nixon invaded a country, the students would march on City Hall," recalls Bob Harris, mayor from 1969 to 1973. Eventually, protesters found their way inside; in 1972, two were elected to council as members of the new Human Rights Party. They put their feet on the tables, ordered in pizza—and with Democratic backing, passed the notorious $5 marijuana fine.

By the mid-1970s, the increasingly fragmented HRP had faded away—as had the era of protest itself. Soon, the Republicans were back in control of council. But though the city seemed to return to normal, the protest era left plenty of traces behind. The radicalization of the faculty, plus the student vote, gradually turned what had been an overwhelmingly Republican town into an increasingly Democratic one. Today city council is dominated by Democrats, several of whom vividly recall the 1960s.

The low marijuana fine (raised to $25 in 1990) and the annual Hash Bash helped give the city a radical, eccentric reputation that lingers to this day. "You guys are the freak show for southeastern Michigan," a Detroit TV journalist once told an *Observer* staffer. Residents know the town is a lot more conservative than its reputation—but many are also proud that Ann Arbor is still home to "alternative" institutions that grew out of the counterculture and the years of activism. The list includes Community High, the People's Food Co-op, Ozone House, the Ann Arbor Film Festival, the Ark, and the Ann Arbor Transportation Authority. Ann Arbor's politics are dramatically more liberal than they were forty years ago, and progressive political movements such as environmentalism have strong support here. The radical era permanently changed Ann Arbor, giving it much of the identity it has today.

—Eve Silberman

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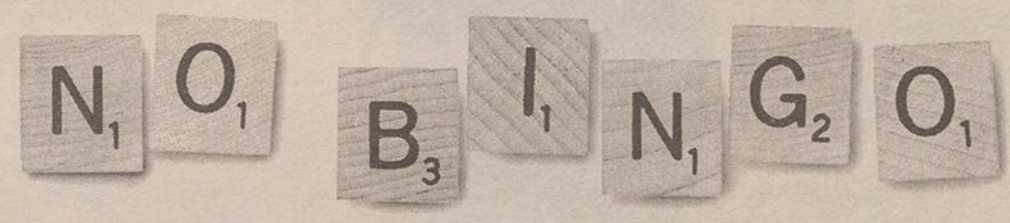

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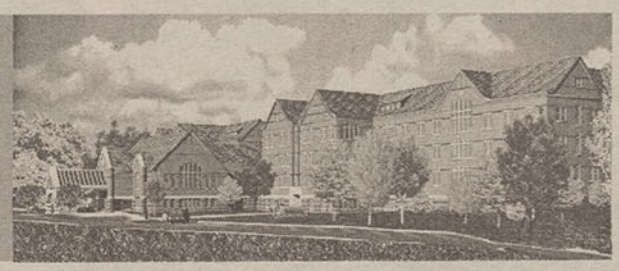

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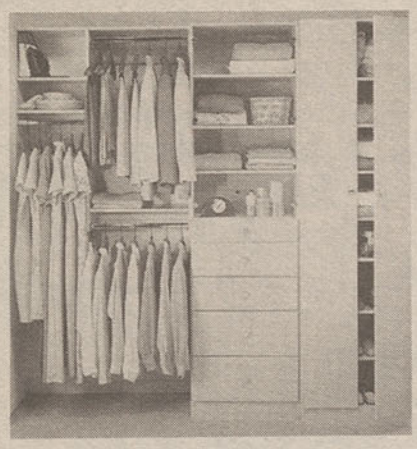

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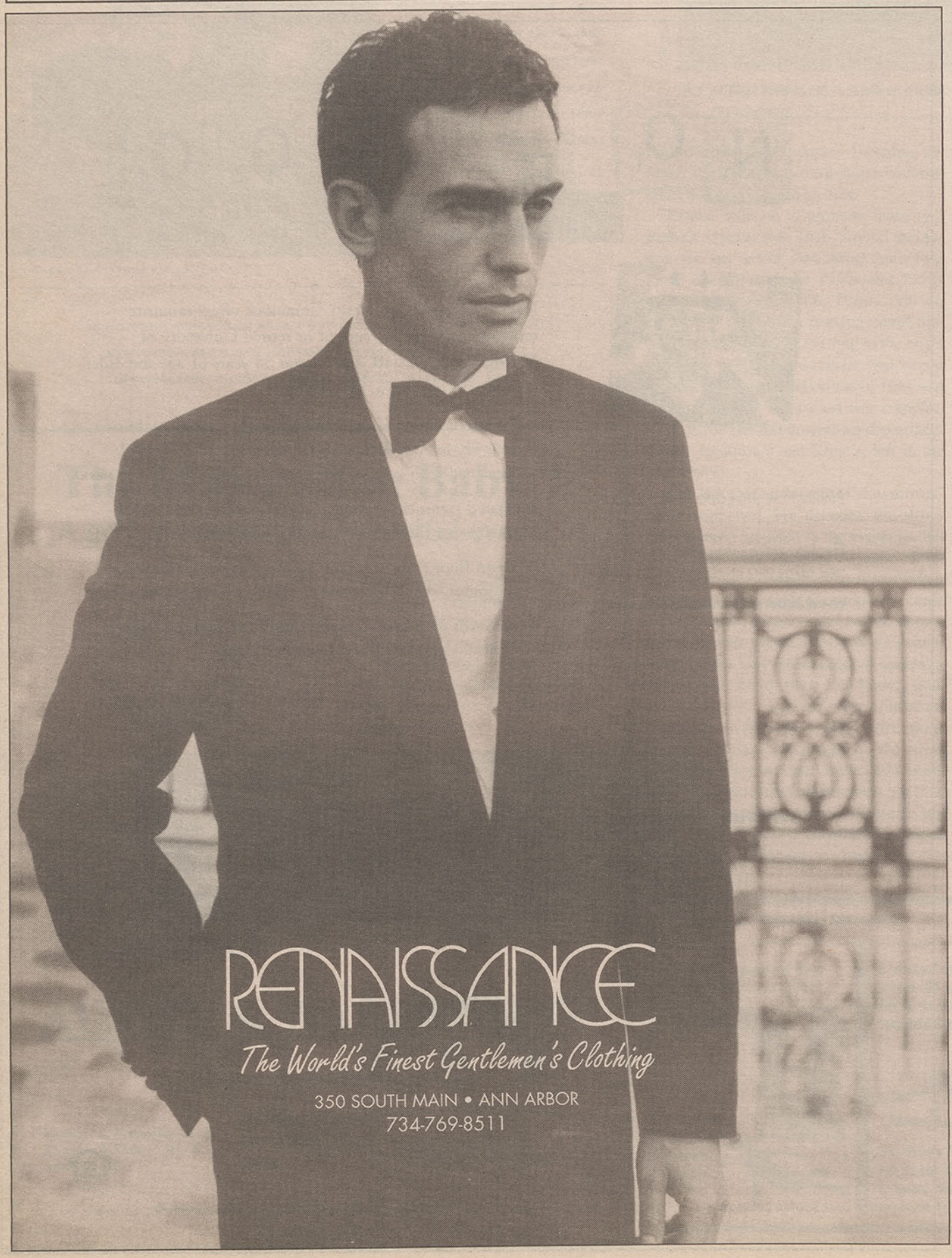

MILLENNIUM *continued*

Lake Michigan, stranding La Salle and his crew near the St. Joseph River. Forced to hike back across Lower Michigan, they reached a river that was probably the Huron, making them the first whites to visit Washtenaw County. They stayed just long enough to build an elm bark canoe and paddle on toward home.

Michigan Central Railroad Arrives *1838*

Ann Arbor's shift from frontier village to cosmopolitan destination began in October 1838 when the Michigan Central Railroad first rode into town. The "Central" arrived just in time to help Ann Arbor weather the recession that followed the Panic of 1837. It turned the city into a passenger and freight hub, and brought generations of U-M students to school.

Ann Arbor Loses to Lansing *1847*

In 1836 Ann Arbor's developers marked off a State House Square at State and William streets. They envisioned it as the site of Michigan's capitol—but so many towns wanted the prize that the legislature ended up settling the state government in the middle of the woods, thus creating the city of Lansing. By then, the developers had already given "State House Square" to the U-M.

City Charter Brings High Taxes *1851*

In April 1851 a large crowd, complete with band, gathered at the train depot to welcome the arrival of Ann Arbor's brand-new city charter from Lansing. With the charter came enlarged taxing authority—but the certainty of higher taxes clearly did not faze most Ann Arborites. (This was a century before the advent of taxation by parking meter.)

U-M Goes Coed *1870*

Women began applying for admission to the all-male U-M as early as 1850, and in 1867, with popular pressure growing, the state legislature demanded a report on the issue. Three years later, the regents voted (6–2) to admit any person possessing "the requisite literary and moral qualifications," regardless of gender. Kalamazoo's Madelon Stockwell enrolled the same year and earned her literature degree in 1872.

The First *Messiah* *1879*

In 1879, U-M prof Henry Simmons Frieze was playing Handel's *Messiah* on the organ in the loft of the Congregational church. Members of the church choir gathered quietly behind him, enjoying the famed organist's impromptu concert. Soon the words of Handel's glorious oratorio rang throughout the church. The singers formed the Choral Union on the spot, and the group has sung the *Messiah* every year since.

U-M Devours City *1900–present*

Around 1900 the U-M burst out of its original forty-four acres with a massive building boom. Soon after, the state legislature gave the regents the power of eminent domain. Ever since, the U-M has insatiably gobbled up property, pulling it off

the tax rolls, closing streets, and dominating Ann Arbor's life and economy.

The Rock Moves to Hill Street ***1932***

For thousands of years, a limestone boulder bearing scratch marks from glaciers sat a mile east of today's Barton Pond. Then, in 1932, city parks superintendent Eli Gallup borrowed a huge truck and hauled it to the corner of Washtenaw and Hill. Since then, school-spirited fraternities and sororities have covered "The Rock" with countless painted messages. It once took someone two days to chip enough paint away to find stone.

Urban Renewal Blocked ***1959***

In the late 1950s, do-gooders wanted to use federal funds to raze the run-down North Central neighborhood. Alarmed at the prospect of losing their homes, the predominantly black population fought back. A divided city council passed the urban renewal plan in 1959, but mayor Cecil Creal's veto killed the idea. Today, the historic neighborhood is thriving.

You Gotta Have Art ***1960***

When South University merchants organized the first Street Art Fair, they saw it as a sideshow to their Summer Bargain Days. The sideshow quickly took center stage: the second fair, in 1961, drew an estimated 100,000 people. "My God," declared one merchant prophetically, "this thing is snowballing into a mushroom!" Now, 1,000 artists and 500,000 shoppers take over the city's streets each July.

The Michigan Murders ***1967–1970***

Between 1967 and 1970, seven young women were raped and killed in Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti. The attacks stopped after the arrest of EMU education major John Norman Collins, but they continue to grip the local imagination. The Ann Arbor District Library has trouble keeping Edward Keyes's 1976 book about the case, *The Michigan Murders,* in its collection. "We're constantly buying multiple copies, and they disappear," frets a librarian.

Old West Side Preserved ***1978***

It's not by chance that the clapboard workmen's cottages and stately brick manses of the Old West Side have held their charm for over a century. The neighborhood is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. And a local historic district ordinance in 1978 created a national precedent by covering an entire neighborhood. The ordinance's strict rules on remodeling help preserve an aura of years gone by.

Coffeehouse Craze Begins ***1989***

Before the first Espresso Royale Caffe opened on State Street, a few coffeehouses had come and gone from town—mostly dark, smoke-filled, sweaty places. Espresso Royale set a new tone and launched a trend: light and airy, smoke-free, and clean-cut cafes soon appeared on block after downtown block. Today, Ann Arbor has more than twenty cafes, and they're the heart of downtown's social scene. ■

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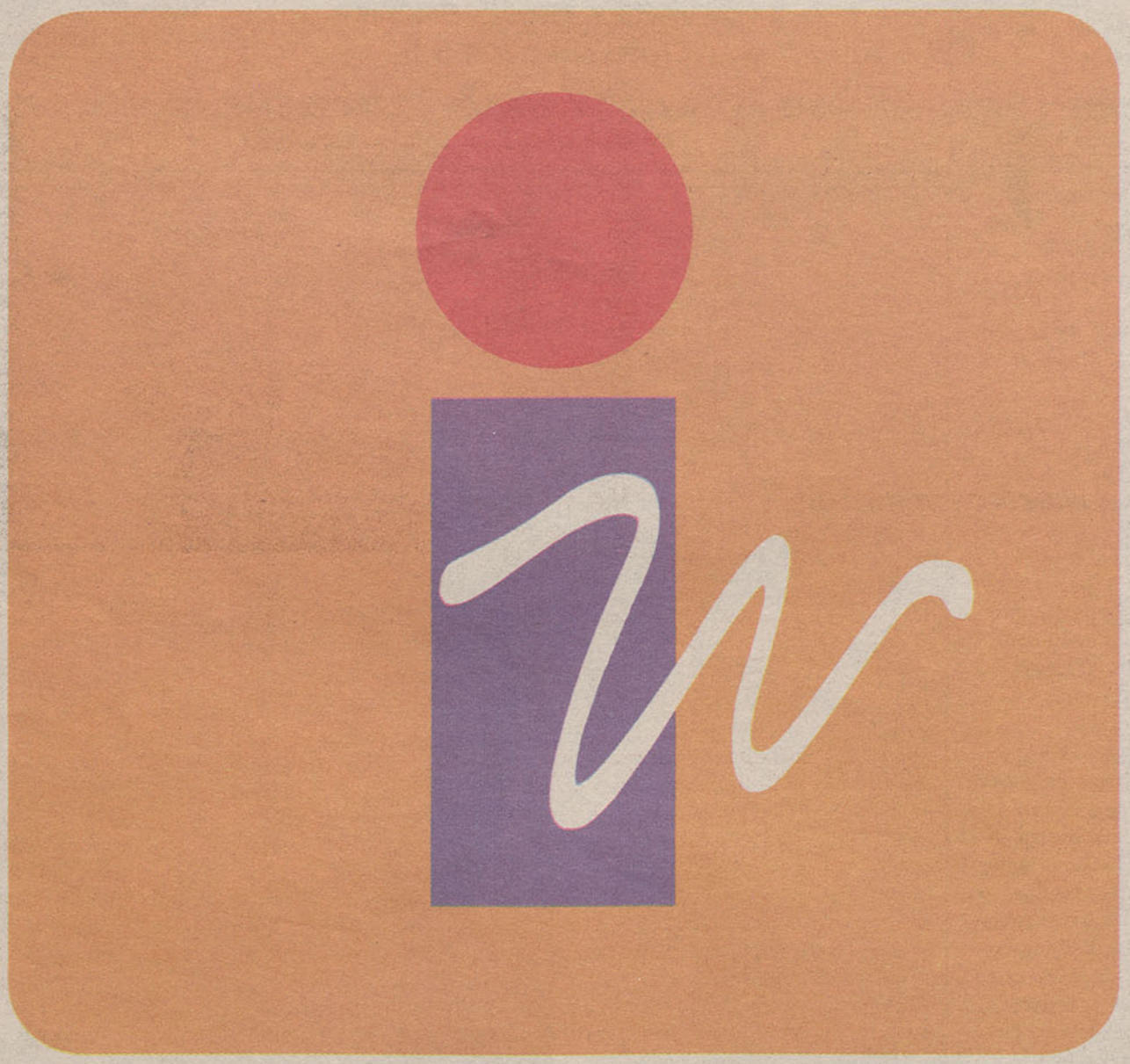

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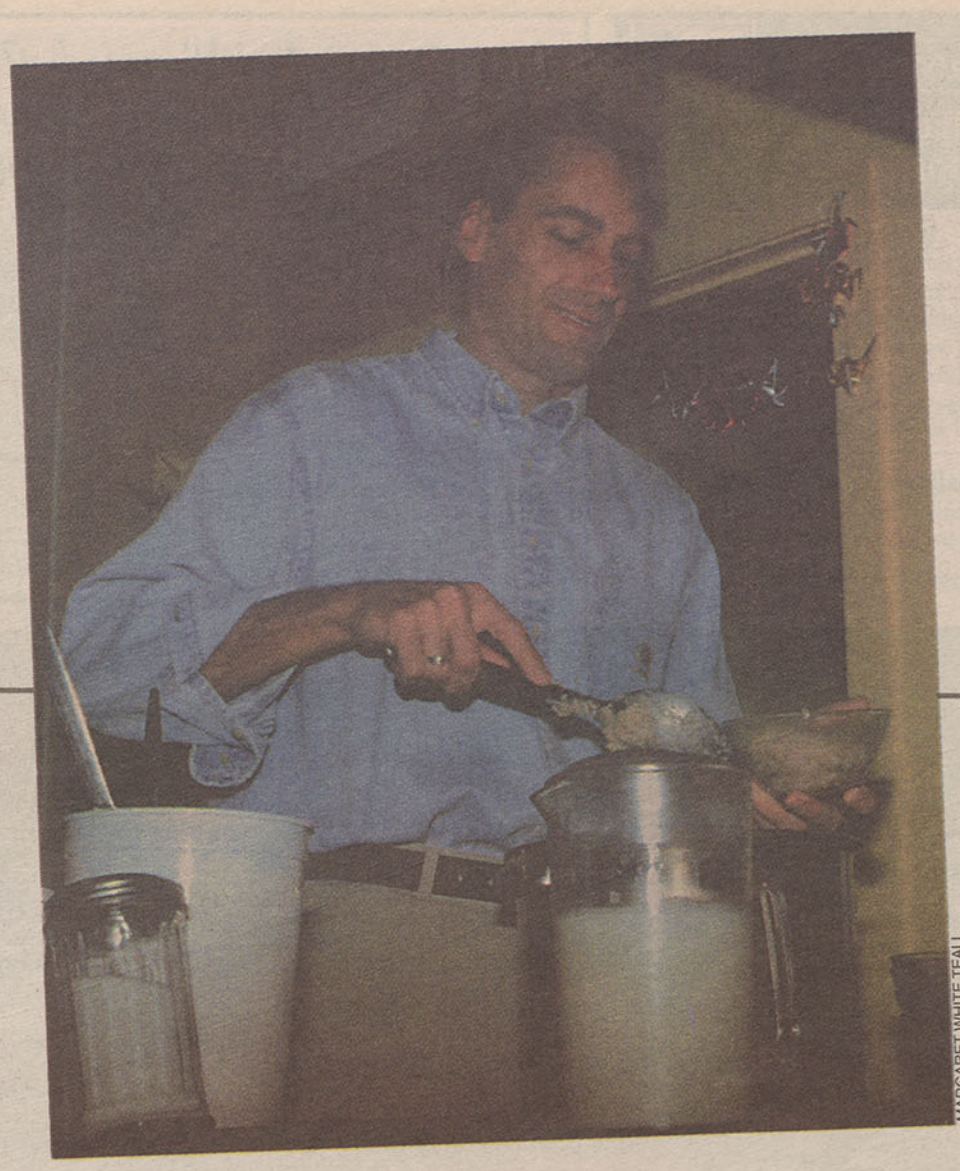

MARGARET WHITE TEALL

by Eve Silberman

Glum and obviously sleep deprived, Fifth Ward city council member Chris Kolb is scrubbing pots in the kitchen of St. Andrew's Church one Wednesday morning at 7:30. Kolb is not an early morning person, and scrubbing pots is yuckier than his usual duty—making oatmeal for the guests at the free breakfast program at his family church. "But my mother told me I'd have to do dishes today," he sighs.

Kolb doesn't find it easy to add an early morning volunteer stint to his schedule. But he can be found at St. Andrew's every Wednesday, come rain, snow, or political crisis. As head of the majority Democratic caucus, which essentially sets city policy, Kolb is the city's second most powerful politician, after mayor Ingrid Sheldon. Kolb himself has run for mayor twice, losing narrowly to Sheldon last year. And if he doesn't run for mayor next year, the reason will probably be that he's running to represent the Fifty-Third District in the Michigan House of Representatives. Term limits will force out current representative Liz Brater, and the prevailing wisdom holds that Kolb could cakewalk to victory in her heavily Democratic district.

Voted mayor pro tem in 1994, the year he joined council, Kolb has championed a moderate-to-progressive agenda for the city. Free bus passes for downtown workers, expanded community policing, continued free parking on Sunday, closer dealings with the county, an end to the war between downtown merchants and street peddlers—all were authored or steered through (or both) by the lifelong Ann Arborite and Huron High (class of 1976) grad.

Kolb is neither the senior Democrat nor the one who talks the most at council meetings: both distinctions belong to Tobi Hanna-Davies, an impassioned veteran of 1960s activism. But Kolb's charisma, good looks, and friendliness have made him not only the Democratic leader but the linchpin for the entire council. He's also a cherished role model among area gays. "To see a gay man as a public figure opens the world to people who are trying to consolidate their identity," says longtime activist Jim Toy.

But above all, he's a good son—to his mother, Betty Jo Kolb, and to the city of Ann Arbor, where, with only brief exceptions, he's lived since he was six months old. "It borders on passion" is how Kolb matter-of-factly describes his feelings about his hometown. His fierce loyalty to Ann Arbor led him to quit a $50,000-a-year full-time job when he was first elected, so that he could spend more time on his $9,200-a-year supposedly part-time council role.

"Ann Arbor is one of the premier cities in the country, but it could be *the* premier city," Kolb will tell you when you ask him why he does it. "We are a good community. I want this to be a *great* community!"

This may sound like leftover campaign rhetoric. But it's true, says a Democrat who has known Kolb for years: "His ideology is his towniness. He wants his city to become a beacon."

Says his mother: "Chris has loved Ann Arbor since he was a little boy."

Kolb and I meet at Cafe Zola, a place he likes because you can get free refills of coffee forever. Our waitress, about nineteen, keeps staring at him. Bringing him his third refill, she finally blurts out, "Can I ask you a really random question? Did you run for mayor?"

"Yes, I did," Kolb says, smiling.

"I thought you looked familiar," says the waitress.

Lots of Ann Arborites either recognize or at least half-recognize Chris Kolb. People who live near his Old West Side home are used to seeing Kolb and his partner, Ken Witherspoon, out walking their two whippets. His telegenic looks catch the attention of people flipping past CTN's Monday night council-meeting broadcasts. "What do I know about Chris Kolb? Apart from the fact that he's gorgeous? Nothing!" says one Barton Hills woman.

Kolb is six feet two inches tall and in terrific shape—a workout fiend, he's modeled for several charity functions. Last spring, he put a dramatic gold streak in his dark hair; it shines flatteringly in the sunlight. Kolb also likes to dress nicely, favoring long-sleeved linen shirts and stylish slacks. "He was the best-dressed candidate ever to knock at my door," recalls one Fifth Ward voter.

Kolb's looks don't hurt him on the campaign trail, but what's made his star rise is a combination of smarts, boyish enthusiasm, high energy, and a talent for penetrating bureaucracies. He plays a "critical role" in local government, says Democratic councilwoman Jean Carlberg, "because of his broad environmental background and a business perspective. He has the technical expertise to understand the issues, and the determination to see them through."

Besides, Carlberg adds, "he's just an awfully nice person. I think anyone could talk to him comfortably." Mayor Sheldon offers a similar compliment. "Chris is a very kind person," she says. It's a striking remark, considering that Kolb has twice campaigned vigorously against Sheldon. He avoided personal attacks (some other Democrats did not) but insisted he'd be a much stronger leader.

During the two mayoral campaigns, Kolb and Sheldon treated each other with frigid politeness. The rest of the time, they get along fine. "I like Ingrid. I really do," Kolb says. He's the Democrats' liaison to the mayor—who's on prickly terms with most of Kolb's caucus mates. "It's a good thing Chris can get along with her," one council Democrat says, "because I can't."

In fact, the city is lucky that Kolb and Sheldon have successfully finessed a potentially volatile setup: a strong-willed Democratic majority (holding seven out of eleven seats) must work with a strong-willed Republican mayor. On occasion, Sheldon has vetoed legislation. As Kolb complains, she rarely initiates council action, but when someone else does, she speaks her piece.

Actually, Sheldon, a moderate, has no quarrel with most of Kolb's positions. One exception is affordable housing, which Sheldon doesn't oppose but also doesn't champion—first-time home buyers, she has said, shouldn't necessarily assume

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The Good Son *continued*

they can buy into Ann Arbor. Kolb hotly disagrees.

Kolb has either spearheaded or supported initiatives to make city government more responsive to citizens and employees; make downtown stable and vibrant; protect the environment; and hold development and its evil stepchild, urban sprawl, in check. In his last mayoral campaign, he called for making the Huron River clean enough to swim in.

With the possible exception of affordable housing, Kolb's priorities fit in well with Ann Arbor's toned-down liberalism of the 1990s. Who doesn't want the Huron River clean, or a vibrant rather than a dying downtown? As for the big D—development—it's hard to find anybody in Ann Arbor who's pro-development except for the developers.

Kolb believes in the big G—government. As a child in the 1960s, he was profoundly influenced by the era's idealism. "I'm not cynical about government the way the people were who came after me," he says. "I still believe in Camelot."

Kolb's recent support of the James Ashley Mews project drew on both his pragmatic and idealistic sides. Kolb thought the proposed residential-office-retail complex at Packard and Main was important because it would bring more people downtown during the day, giving a shot in the arm to stores struggling to survive amid the plethora of eateries. (Kolb tries to do all his shopping downtown and was particularly upset when Marty's men's clothing store shut its doors.) He and the other Democrats successfully demanded that the housing include some lower-priced condominiums.

But when the project finally came to council for approval in October, Kolb raised an objection: he wanted the building's height reduced from nine to seven stories. He spoke earnestly about the "character of our buildings. It's not a coincidence," he argued, that the city's "most liked" buildings are all seven stories or less.

Council members (including all but one of his fellow Democrats) voted down his amendment. Kolb then spoke again to assure his listeners that he was still voting for the project. Whether he wins or loses, Kolb says, "I never hold grudges."

People who've served on council in Ann Arbor usually say that they're glad they did it but decided to stop because of exhaustion. Monday evening council meetings start at 7:30 and typically run till 10 or 11—and just last month, one ran till 2 a.m. And the meetings, of course, are only the most visible part of the job. There are the thick packets of information to study, constituents' calls to council members' homes, the committee meetings, the occasional crisis. Actually, for the past few years, the meetings have been generally dull and relatively crisis free; it's partly luck, and partly because Kolb and Sheldon can work together.

Before he started working for state rep John Hansen this fall, Kolb put in twenty to forty hours a week on city business—

"I'm not cynical about government the way people were who came after me," Kolb says. "I still believe in Camelot."

MARGARET WHITE TEALL

Betty Jo Kolb gets a helping hand from her son, the politician.

attending Downtown Development Authority meetings, reviewing site plans with a developer, congratulating elementary-school graduates of the drug education program D.A.R.E., responding to complaints from his Fifth Ward constituents about barking dogs or trash removal.

One Sunday evening last summer, for instance, Kolb and three other Democratic council members met in the downtown fire station's conference room for their weekly caucus meeting. (Although Republicans may come, few bother except for Sheldon.)

Kolb, Carlberg, Hanna-Davies, and Heidi Cowing Herrell sit around a long table looking hassled and hot—the air-conditioning is broken. They fan themselves sporadically with sheets of paper. As they wait for Sheldon, the Dems discuss a problem. At the last council meeting, three Democrats were absent. To their embarrassment, a motion proposed by local environmental activists had appeared on the agenda—a request to put a parks acquisition millage on the November ballot—and the Dems had lacked the votes to pass it. Kolb, using a parliamentary maneuver, has retrieved it for reconsideration at tomorrow's council meeting.

Someone asks Kolb whether he and Sheldon have talked about the millage. Yes, he replies: "Ingrid says she's more comfortable with a third of a mill" than the half-mill the advocates want. Impatiently, Cowing Herrell drums her fingers on the table. "People don't realize that all the vacant land [in Ann Arbor] will be gone," she complains.

Talk turns to tomorrow night's meeting—and the importance of Elisabeth Daley's presence. Daley, one of the three Dems who missed the previous meeting, is in Boston. Carlberg asks Kolb if he knows whether she is going to be back in time.

"God willing, she'll be here tomorrow!" Kolb replies. He looks at me—the reporter/outsider—and it's clear he doesn't want to say any more. I ask whether he's talked to Daley, and he says that she's been "contacted."

"It ain't in my hands anymore," Kolb tells everyone, a bit ruefully. He adds, unnecessarily, that he will be there. Kolb has a near perfect attendance record. "I never miss meetings if I can help it," he tells his colleagues. "I'm always fearful of the *Ann Arbor News* telling people how many meetings I've missed."

Sheldon shows up, as does the Sierra Club representative pushing to have the proposal on the November ballot. It's apparent from Sheldon's crisp questions that she's not impressed with his arguments. But it doesn't matter. The next day, Daley arrives from Boston, the motion to put the proposal on the ballot passes, and the Dems save face. (Voters approved the millage overwhelmingly in November.) Later, Kolb admits to me that all the previous week he was frantically E-mailing Daley.

Although he's undeniably efficient, Kolb is not hyperorganized. He can be late for meetings, slow about returning calls. One time, he called me urgently because he realized he'd given me his only copy of some autobiographical material. Could I return it immediately? I wasn't surprised when Kolb cheerfully revealed that when he was a senior at Huron High he missed the U-M's application deadline. He started college at Western Michigan, transferring to the U-M as a junior.

But in the ways that count, he's very focused, say his colleagues. "He's been the key person in terms of holding together where we [the Democratic caucus] needed to go," says Jean Carlberg .

The Republicans don't dispute Kolb's effectiveness. Their biggest criticism is that he's not enough of his own man. "Democratic caucus interest is to be very partisan. He wants to stay responsive to that," says Ingrid Sheldon. "He's a pretty decent guy," says former Republican council member Peter Fink. "But he marches to that [Democratic] drum. He grits his teeth and says, 'This is the Democratic position.'"

"The Democrats don't have to listen to us," chimes in Second Ward Republican Joe Upton. "So we don't get much movement toward the middle ground."

Kolb heatedly calls these complaints "inaccurate." He points out that recently he and Jean Carlberg broke ranks with their fellow Democrats to save the Forest Street parking structure from being killed or indefinitely postponed. "I've voted many times away from my party, and I've caught flak," he says.

Still, Kolb acknowledges, "the Democrats have some shared values, and it's not unusual that we would vote together." He points out that even with a Democratic majority, Sheldon can block moves. "If the mayor is hesitant, the staff is caught in the middle, not knowing whether to move forward or back. It causes friction."

Kolb first ran for mayor himself in 1996. He says that he didn't expect to win that race—that he was in it mainly to get his name known for the next run—but he ended up losing by only five percentage points. In 1998, he was very hopeful. He ran a highly visible campaign, backed by several hundred supporters, including a large gay contingency from both Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti (Kolb had supported the controversial Ypsilanti human rights ordinance).

His campaign slogan was "Ann Arbor Can't Wait"—couldn't wait, that is, for the assertive leadership Chris offered. "Like most of us," a brochure said, Kolb "has watched the city grow rough around the edges lately" because of traffic congestion, lack of affordable housing for working families, and crumbling parking structures. "I appreciate the service of the current mayor," Kolb was quoted as saying. "She is a respected part of the community." Then the punch line: "But the mayor of Ann Arbor should not be complacent."

It turned out that Ann Arbor could wait—barely. Kolb lost by a margin of 704 votes, just 2 percent of the total.

And if he had won? Kolb insists that he would be much more assertive than Sheldon in attempting to shape Ann Arbor's destiny at a crucial period. "Downtown, affordable housing, and open space" are the main issues, he says, but the overall concern is whether the city can control its future. Kolb keeps a sort of running tab on

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how other attractive places faced with similar challenges are coping. "Portland, Oregon, Montgomery County, Maryland, Chattanooga . . . these recognize that you have to have mixed income in your housing—you can't segregate!"

Kolb complains that the city was passive during a decade dominated by development and urban sprawl. He points out that he, not Sheldon, initiated a first meeting between the Ann Arbor City Council and the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners to discuss what's become a regional dilemma. He knows, of course, that property owners' rights make it difficult to stop developers in their tracks. But he insists that the city could have been more forceful in negotiations—as the Democrats were with the Ashley Mews project.

Kolb's single most audacious idea is to create a nonprofit real estate investment trust that would buy up downtown buildings and then rent out space to local businesses it deems important for maintaining a vibrant downtown. If that sounds to some like a socialist boondoggle, to Kolb it's just prudent planning. "Most other communities that have been successful [in creating a stable downtown] have created a public-private sector to make things happen," he argues.

"Downtown is thriving but fragile. What does it look like? What does it need to look like? Successful cities look at what the end vision is going to be."

Kolb's vision for Ann Arbor's future draws on Ann Arbor's past—more specifically, *his* past. He grew up in a quiet, tree-shaded neighborhood near Pattengill School.

"We call it the Cleaver neighborhood," says Sue Dickinson Gott, who grew up next door to the Kolb family. She's referring, of course, to *Leave It to Beaver,* the classic 1950s-vintage TV series about the life of an idealized WASP family: businessman and understanding dad Ward; homemaker and understanding mom June; and two nice if trouble-prone sons, Wally and his kid brother, Beaver.

"All of the families moved in at the same time," Gott, a planner at Johnson Johnson & Roy, continues. "We were raised as one big clan, and the parents were social and friendly. None of our parents were divorced. They had very solid marriages." Her parents still live next door to Betty Jo Kolb. Richard Kolb, a Parke-Davis administrator, died two years ago. "We were very close," Chris says of his dad, whose place he took when Richard Kolb became too ill to continue volunteering in the free breakfast program. "Chris's dad was a very humble person," Gott says. "I see a lot of the traits of his dad coming through in Chris.

"Chris today is exactly the adult version of who he was when he was a kid. He's very honest, very good-natured."

Chris Kolb's boyhood home is a red brick tri-level with a large backyard. In everything from the lime green shag carpeting to the gold-framed landscapes on the wall, the house suggests both prosperity and thrift. Betty Jo Kolb, a well-dressed woman with ash-blond hair, has an air of reserve that can't conceal her innate kindness. She brings out pictures of Kolb, including a 1962 *Ann Arbor News* clipping showing little Chris at St. Andrew's waiting for his Easter eggs.

"I never had any problem with either one," she says of Chris and his older brother, Dick (now married and an administrator for an Arizona law firm). "They were good kids. It helps when you have a neighborhood where the parents are like uncles and aunts."

Kolb's childhood Ann Arbor was one of open spaces as well as caring neighbors. "We had all sorts of wildlife that would come through the backyards. . . . Over by Washtenaw Woods, there was a drainage ditch that to us was a huge river to explore."

But even in high school, Kolb seldom made his parents worry. "We were really pretty good kids, and our parents trusted us enough to know that we weren't drinking, we weren't smoking, we weren't doing anything. I can remember staying out till two at night and coming home and not being in any trouble."

He pauses. Then, he owns up: sometimes, he says, he and his high school buds did drink "a little" alcohol.

When Kolb visited cousins in Bay City, he recalls, he felt glad he lived in Ann Arbor. "I'm not criticizing Bay City," he says

Kolb's new boss, state representative John Hansen, says that he and Kolb have talked about a lot of things—except whether Kolb is interested in running for Liz Brater's seat.

quickly. But he felt that Ann Arbor was diverse and interesting in a way that Bay City wasn't. He knew that events like an international exhibit at the Michigan Union don't happen in every city. There, an exhibitor wrote Kolb's name in Chinese characters. Kolb, thrilled, kept the paper for years. "I may still have it!" he says, laughing.

"I was always the most political of my family," Kolb recalls. "My parents considered themselves independents," he says, but "the older they got, the more Democratic they became." In fact, Betty Jo Kolb still describes herself as an independent. But although Kolb's mom is friendly with Ingrid Sheldon—a fellow Thrift Shop volunteer—she does allow that she voted Democratic when Chris ran for mayor.

Born in 1958, Chris caught the tail's end of the comet that was the 1960s. He remembers watching Lyndon Johnson on TV, making the speech at the U-M that launched the Great Society. A few years later, he listened to anxious young men in the neighborhood talking about the Vietnam War and the draft. He supported Robert Kennedy's run for the Democratic presidential nomination, and he vividly remembers his shock and sadness when he woke up to learn that Kennedy had been shot. He was nine years old.

As he grew into his teens and grappled with his sexual identity, his interest in politics became personal. He remembers being at the public library when demonstrators outside were picketing in support of a proposed human rights ordinance prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation (it passed). The experience, he says, made him feel that government was a vehicle for protecting minorities. It also made him feel that "there was a place for people like me in Ann Arbor."

Kolb graduated from Huron in 1976. After transferring to the U-M, he joined other student activists pushing the university to sell its investments in companies that did business in South Africa. One time, at a U-M regents' meeting, he and two other students performed a pantomime of the three monkeys who "see no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil." "I was See No Evil," Kolb recalls, laughing. "I had to stand up through the whole regents' meeting with my hands in front of my eyes."

He started out prelaw but switched, as a senior, to the School of Natural Resources, graduating in 1982. Kolb was not so much a Green as he was interested in public policy issues related to the environment: he studied ecology, environmental education, and particularly public policy and management. After graduation, Kolb waited tables at Bennigan's for a year before heading off to Atlanta to study political science at Emory University on a full scholarship. He says he enjoyed his class work but also realized that he didn't want to be a "passive observer of the political system."

At the start of his second year of grad school, Kolb returned to Ann Arbor to pick up his car. "My parents were gone for the weekend, and they had left the Michigan–Notre Dame football tickets," he recalls. "So I called up this old friend and said, 'How would you like to go to the game?' And he said, 'How would you like a job?' And I said, 'We'll talk at the football game.'" Kolb returned to Emory—to pack his belongings. He's been here ever since.

The job was at the Wayne Disposal landfill in Belleville—a place that, Kolb says wryly, he might have picketed under other circumstances. But environmental regulation of landfills was tightening up, and Kolb got to play a growing part. "There weren't a lot of experts," he recalls. Hired to test landfill samples, he soon became an expert himself. He stayed at Wayne Disposal two years and then freelanced for various companies. They'd hire him, for example, to write hazardous waste permit applications or design safety precautions for employees working with dangerous substances.

In 1989 Kolb joined the staff of Michigan Recovery, an industrial fluids recycling center in Romulus. He was quickly promoted to general manager. "My job was to cut costs—and not cut production," he recalls. "I learned a lot about business and about making hard choices."

While working in Romulus, Kolb became active in Ann Arbor politics. In 1987, he had bought a house in what was then the solidly Republican Fourth Ward. He ran for council in 1989 and lost. Then the ward boundaries were redrawn, and Kolb found himself living in the Democratic-leaning Fifth Ward.

Kolb was elected to council without opposition in 1993. In 1995, he crushed Republican John Ballew. He was reelected unopposed in 1997. Last month, he faced his broadest challenge ever, from Republican Michael Maylen plus Libertarian and Reform Party candidates. He brushed them all aside, winning 75 percent of the total vote.

Though he quit his job soon after he joined council, Kolb doesn't want anyone to think that he's been living entirely off his city "salary" of $9,200. He's taken on freelance work, always outside the city to avoid a conflict of interest. Last year he began looking for a new full-time job. (Asked whether he ran out of money, he bursts out laughing and says, "That's none of your business!")

In late September, Kolb started working for John Hansen. One of Hansen's two

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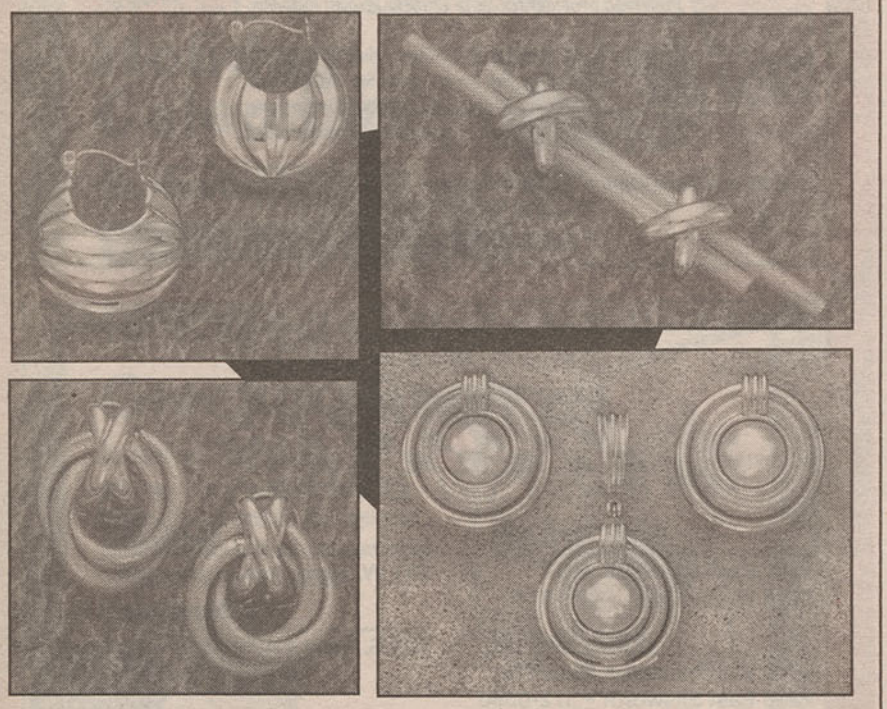

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"Chris today is exactly the adult version of who he was when he was a kid. He's very honest, very good-natured."

aides, Kolb sometimes works in the Lansing office, taking constituent calls and working on a research project that taps into his interest in affordable housing—analyzing the costs of apartments, mobile homes, and "starter" homes over ten years. More frequently, though, Kolb stands in for Hansen at meetings and functions throughout the Fifty-Second District, which includes northern and western Ann Arbor. It's all useful experience if he decides to run for Liz Brater's Fifty-Third District seat.

In April 1994, during Kolb's very first council meeting, members discussed whether to oppose a statewide antigay resolution (which eventually died). During the debate, Kolb mentioned that he was gay. When the *Ann Arbor News* wrote about the meeting, "They said 'Kolb, who's gay.' That's the first time the *Ann Arbor News* actually used those words," Kolb remembers, laughing.

Kolb discusses his homosexuality without any perceptible discomfort, and that helps to disarm those less comfortable. "You're that homosexual one, aren't you?" a man once demanded when Kolb was going door-to-door. "He ended up talking to me about an entirely different issue," Kolb told the gay newspaper *Between the Lines.* "Overall, it seems to work when I'm open with people."

He had decided to be open during his early twenties, when AIDS first came to the public's attention. He lost several friends to the disease. "My dad said that at fifty he started reading the obituary columns because people he knew started dying," Kolb recalls. "I started at twenty-five."

Kolb recalls deciding that "if voters are going to vote for me, they should know who I am." He speaks frequently at gay events, and is a volunteer counselor at HARC, the AIDS resource center. He says that Ann Arbor is far less homophobic than it was fifteen or even ten years ago, but it's not where he hopes it will be. "I've had things said to me [in Ann Arbor]. I've heard the word 'faggot.'"

Almost the only time Kolb gets visibly irritated during interviews is when I ask about Ken Witherspoon, his former campaign treasurer, an assistant manager for a local store, and the man he's lived with for three years. (Previously, Kolb says tersely, he was involved in a ten-year relationship.) "Who else's personal life gets this kind of evaluation?" he demands, putting down his third cup of Cafe Zola coffee. When the *Observer* writes about Tobi Hanna-Davies, he demands, does it mention her husband? When I counter that Hanna-Davies has never run for mayor, Kolb laughs and shrugs, a gesture of graceful defeat.

Then he turns serious again. "I live my life in the public arena, and anyone who's going to be involved with me has to realize that," he says. "But it doesn't mean that individual has to be in the public arena if they choose not to!"

If Kolb has ever been uneasy at having his own sexuality out in the public arena, he's not talking. He declines to describe what it was like to be in high school, gay and silent, other than to observe, "No one likes to be different." He also is protective of his family's reaction. His mother says only, "He's Chris, no matter what. He's part of us."

At a gay rights rally last year, Jim Toy emotionally told the crowd, "In a quarter of a century, I hope that Chris will be our first gay male president. And the mansion in Washington will be renamed the Rainbow House."

Many people are very optimistic about Kolb's political prospects (though they don't usually dream of the White House). Increasingly, local Dems talk about the possibility that he may run for state rep, not mayor, come next November. They don't consider Sheldon (who's declined to say whether she'll run again) undefeatable—they point to her increasingly narrow margins of victory in the last two last races—but they hate to see their best all-around candidate risk a strikeout when the state rep race seems a sure thing.

On the evening of November 2, two groups gather at Arbor Brewing Company to watch the election returns. The group that pushed the parks millage sit around a large table, looking as if they've just won a free trip to the Grand Canyon. People drink and laugh—and why not? Despite opposition from the *Ann Arbor News,* the parks millage triumphed with a 65-percent majority.

In the next room, the Democratic council candidates are considerably more subdued. Though Heidi Herrell has won reelection in the Third Ward and Kolb is crushing all challengers in the Fifth, it's already clear that this will not be the year the Dems win a "supermajority"—the eight votes needed to override a mayoral veto.

"Did you hear? Larry lost," someone tells me glumly. Larry Kestenbaum was the Democrats' candidate in Ward 4. It usually goes Republican, but Kestenbaum campaigned hard, and came in just seventy-nine tantalizing votes behind Republican Marcia Higgins. Kestenbaum sits at a table, shoulders slumped, his eyes sad behind his large glasses. At another table, Parma Yarkin looks resigned to her second loss in the Second Ward—she had reportedly written off the race from the start.

Everyone is waiting for Chris Kolb. When he does arrive, people applaud. Kolb jumps on a chair. "We have a lot to cele-

COURTESY BETTY JO KOLB

COURTESY BETTY JO KOLB

Betty Jo and Richard Kolb with sons Dick (l.) and Chris in the 1960s.

brate tonight!" he says, raising his voice in the not-quite-quiet room. "We have got to be very proud of the showing Larry had in the Fourth Ward. Maybe in two years, we will have a supermajority."

As Kolb continues, some of his favorite themes emerge. "We thank Rene and Matt [Greff, the owners of Arbor Brewing] for sticking to the downtown. We are going to have the strongest downtown in the whole state, in the whole Midwest. This community knows what will make the cities work—we vote for Democrats!"

Kolb's confidence lightens the mood. Other Democrats speak, but briefly and so softly they're hard to hear. Clearly, there is just one leader in this room.

At a corner table, enjoying the show, sits state representative John Hansen, Kolb's new boss and possibly his future colleague in the state legislature.

Kolb's job in Lansing has kicked up a lot of excitement among political watchers, who believe he wanted to work for Hansen as a sort of trial run. Now, sipping a beer, Hansen explains that Kolb did not chase the job. At a local function for Ernestine Bradley (wife of presidential candidate Bill), Hansen mentioned to Kolb that there was an opening in his office. "You know somebody?" Hansen recalls asking. "*I* might be interested," Kolb replied. The two talked on the phone that evening and wrapped up Kolb's employment within the week. He started in late September.

Hansen says that he wanted Kolb partly for his efficiency and partly because he wanted "a better grassroots connection in Ann Arbor." Hansen says that they discussed potential conflicts between Kolb's job and his council duties. So far, none has arisen. If Ingrid Sheldon wants to meet with him on Fifty-Second District business, Hansen says, he'll go himself rather than dispatch Kolb.

Hansen says that he and Kolb have talked about a lot of things—except whether Kolb is interested in running for Liz Brater's seat. "I don't think he's decided," Hansen says.

No, he hasn't, Kolb confirms. He's still recovering from the election and adjusting to his new schedule (on election night, he got just two hours of sleep before rising to drive to Lansing). Kolb's not being coy. "Obviously, there are two potential races" that interest him, he says. "And everyone knows what they are." What will help him decide? "Decisions like this are not made by any one individual. I will be talking with members of the community," says Kolb.

When he says this, Kolb sounds both dutiful and virtuous. You can see why Ann Arbor Area Chamber of Commerce president Woody Holman calls him a "very fine young man." Kolb sometimes gives you the sense that he's carrying around a report card—and always checking his citizenship grade. Asked if he goes to services at St. Andrew's, he says, remorsefully, "I should." He likes cool cars, but apologizes for driving a 1987 Mustang convertible. It's not, he says, a car that an environmentalist should be driving.

But he's got a saving sense of humor. When told that it's hard to find any dirt on him, Kolb laughs and says, "Like I keep saying—I'm the real deal!"

Despite a schedule that recently went into overload, Kolb says that he won't quit volunteering at the St. Andrew's breakfast program. Regretfully, he notes that he's had to shorten his time on oatmeal duty because of the new job's demands. But he points out quickly, "I'll be there at seven-thirty—when it's the busiest."

He's just being a good son to his mom and the family church. And maybe, just a little bit, a good politician. ■

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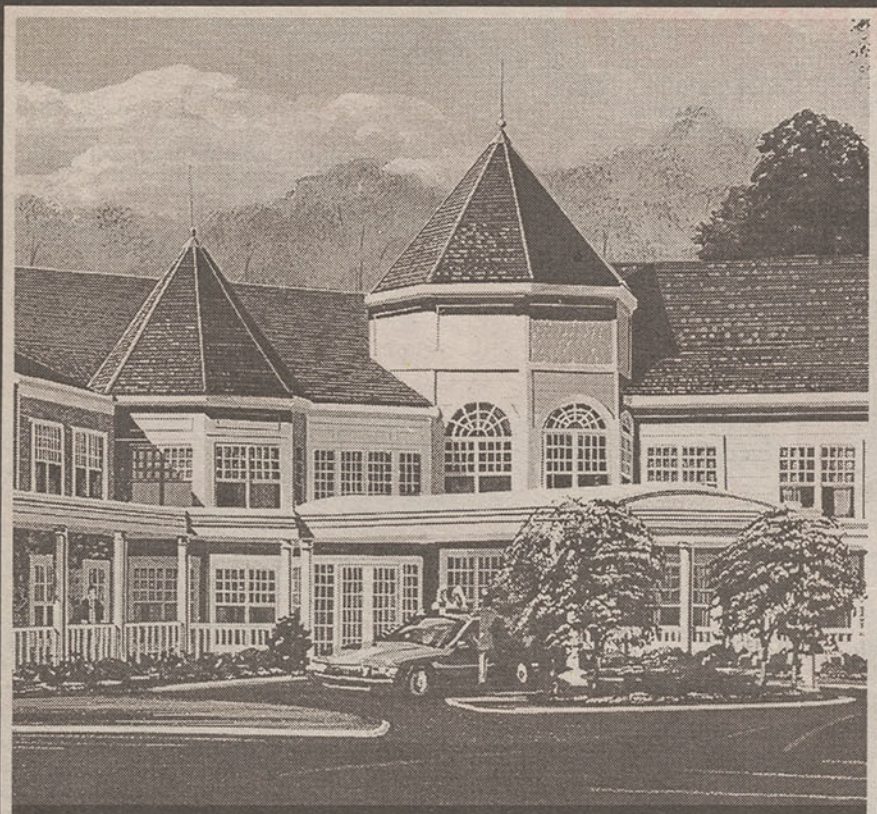

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Armed Ann Arbor

Meet a few of the local residents who buy, sell, and carry guns

by Debbie Eisenberg Merion

Jim Trevor (not his real name), a union organizer from Wyandotte, is checking out guns at Investment Rarities of Michigan, the only store in Ann Arbor listed in the Yellow Pages under Guns & Gunsmiths. It smells smoky in the small shop two doors down from Whole Foods on East Stadium. Trevor looks to be in his late forties; a muscular man, he's neatly dressed in tan Dockers and a sport shirt and has a slightly graying ponytail. The owner of the store, Pete Linden, in his early fifties, sports a ponytail too, down to the middle of his back.

In a soft voice, Trevor asks to see one of the shotguns in the glass case. Handing it over, Linden boasts, "This has no chips or dings." Trevor opens the gun and squints through the barrel toward a light. "There's just a bit of rust in the chamber," he replies, simultaneously assessing and setting up for bargaining.

Trevor carefully hands the shotgun back to Linden as if holding a silver tray—palms up, with one hand under the barrel, the other under the stock. Next he asks to look at a handgun. Linden takes it from the case, and moments later Trevor has it disassembled and is rubbing it thoroughly, maybe even sensuously, with a grease-darkened chamois that Linden has handed to him. He takes off his glasses, peers through the six bulletless chambers, and puts the pieces back together like a big metal puzzle, smiling smugly as the last one clicks into place.

Over the next hour or so, Trevor ends up handling every gun in the shop—two handguns and three "long guns." He doesn't buy any but talks about coming back to get one. Back home, he says, he has a collection of "about fifty" guns. Even Linden seems surprised at the number. "That's an arsenal!" he says, smiling. "The person with fifty isn't the one you worry about," Trevor replies. "It's the one with one gun who doesn't know how to store it, clean it, and load it."

Trevor says he keeps his weapons locked up in gun safes. "If anyone was to break into my home, I'd probably be dead before I could get to them," he says. But he makes it clear that he wouldn't shy away from using them for self-defense if he needed to. A daughter of a friend was killed in a carjacking, he says. If she had had a gun for protection, he believes, she would be alive today.

Trevor is a hunter and a gun collector. It's a hobby, he says, "like women knitting." He taught each of his three sons how to use guns and has taken them to hunter safety classes. "I wouldn't even let them point toy guns at people," he says. "I think accidents could be avoided by educating children, and showing them damage they can inflict. But education wouldn't help what happened at Columbine. That's psychological—those kids had problems."

Since the recent string of gun-related schoolyard killings and hate crimes, guns and gun owners have attracted closer scrutiny. Although the vast majority are responsible, law-abiding citizens, guns do provide their owners with something non–gun owners don't have: an efficient, violent, intimidating method to express hatred or anger.

Although Trevor says he wouldn't use his guns in anger, and as evidence mentions a very bitter divorce that his ex-wife evidently survived, he doesn't seem totally consistent when confronted with a hypothetical situation. "If a woman in my family was being stalked, I'd follow her and catch the son of a bitch myself."

"What would you do?" I ask.

"Anything I had to," he replies protectively.

The string of killings this year has revived discussion of registering all guns as one possible answer to the problem of gun violence. This strikes fear in the hearts of gun owners like Trevor: "First thing anyone does who is a dictator is to disarm the people." If that day ever came, though, Trevor wouldn't give all of his guns up. "They know most of what I have," he says, "but not all of what I have." He'd have no qualms about concealing part of his arsenal, since he sees himself as the good guy. "Criminals are always going to have the gun," he argues. "If you take everyone's gun, that just makes it easier for criminals."

Buying a gun in Ann Arbor

No one would call Ann Arbor a great city in which to buy a gun. A casual survey of a half dozen gun owners waiting for a concealed-weapons permit found none who would buy his guns in Ann Arbor. Pete Linden, owner of Investment Rarities, says in a raspy voice that the reason there are so few gun stores is the meticulous paperwork required, not to mention the numerous regulations to abide by. "There is a book this thick with federal regulations"—he holds his thumb and forefinger two inches apart—"and this thick with Michigan regulations," he continues, narrowing the gap to one inch.

There used to be more gun shops in town. In 1989 five stores were listed in the Yellow Pages, but that was the heyday for gun dealers in Ann Arbor. In 1979 there were two stores listed, and in 1951 just one. The listings don't include every store that sells guns, however, or even the biggest ones. According to Steven Kessler of the FBI, 15 percent of gun dealers account for 85 percent of transactions. Two big discount chains, Dunham's and Meijer, stock guns at their Ann Arbor stores, and they undoubtedly sell many more weapons than does Investment Rarities. Guns are a sideline for Linden: his main business is buying and selling coins and jewelry.

"The person with fifty isn't the one you worry about," Trevor replies. "It's the one with one gun who doesn't know how to store it, clean it, and load it."

Ann Arbor might not be a big city for gun sales, but it *is* a city with only a few homicides per year. (There is debate on whether those facts are connected and, if so, how.) From 1996 through 1998, there were two murders in the city each year. The total number of incidents involving guns is considerably greater; however, not counting pellet and BB guns, the Ann Arbor police have recorded anywhere from 88 to 180 incidents annually for the past five years. About two-thirds involve handguns, with the remainder divided among rifles, shotguns, and unknown firearms.

"Criminals are always going to have the gun," he argues. "If you take everyone's gun, that just makes it easier for criminals."

Most efforts to regulate guns have focused on handguns. Since they're so easily concealed, they're the gun of choice for criminals, and they have fewer legitimate uses than long guns. Michigan has been doing background checks on handgun buyers since 1927. You can't legally purchase a handgun in this state if you are a fugitive from justice, a user of illegal drugs, or an illegal alien, or if you have been dishonorably discharged from the armed forces, have ever been convicted of domestic violence, have a restraining order against you, or have ever been convicted of a crime for which you could have been imprisoned for more than one year.

Since November 30, 1998, buyers of both handguns and long guns have undergone a federal check, too. That was the date when gun dealers began to use the new National Instant Crimi-

"I could have sold five hundred rifles that day [before NICS took effect]," says Pete Linden. "They were lined up—not just young kids eighteen to twenty-five, there were fifty-to-seventy-year-olds too. It was pretty bizarre."

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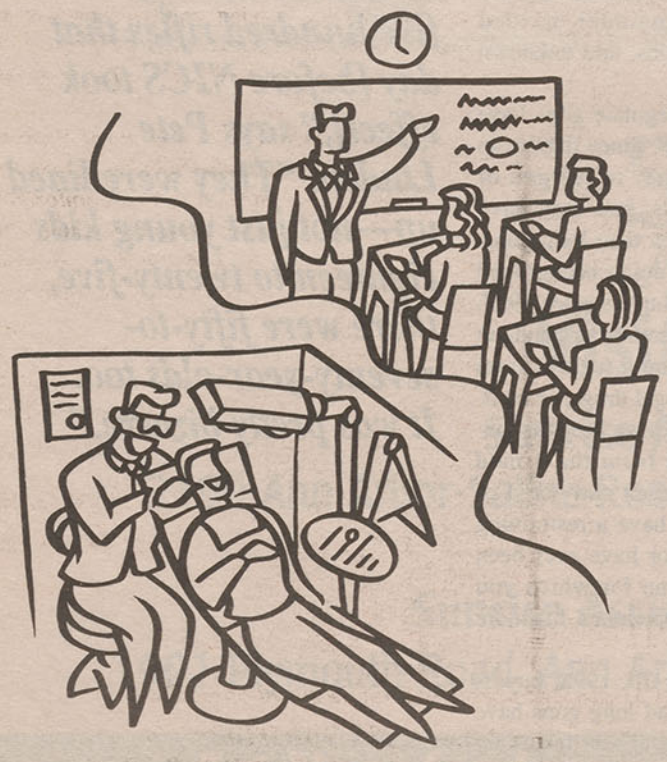

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nal Background Check System (NICS). A screening process designed to keep guns out of the hands of known criminals, NICS was mandated into existence by the Brady Bill in 1994. (The Brady Bill takes its name from former presidential press secretary Jim Brady, who was badly wounded in the assassination attempt against President Reagan in 1981. Brady and his wife, Sarah, have become national advocates for gun control.)

The NICS implementation date was set years in advance. Gun owner associations sent out warnings beforehand, and people who did not want to go through the background check rushed to buy guns at the last minute. "I could have sold five hundred rifles that day [before NICS took effect]," says Pete Linden. "They were lined up—not just young kids eighteen to twenty-five, there were fifty-to-seventy-year-olds too. It was pretty bizarre."

Apparently, a lot of buyers had reason to avoid NICS. Nationwide, enough convicted criminals, fugitives, and people with mental illness were prevented from buying guns during NICS's first seven months to fill Michigan Stadium. Yet those 100,000 or so people, amazingly, amounted to only about 2 percent of the total number screened.

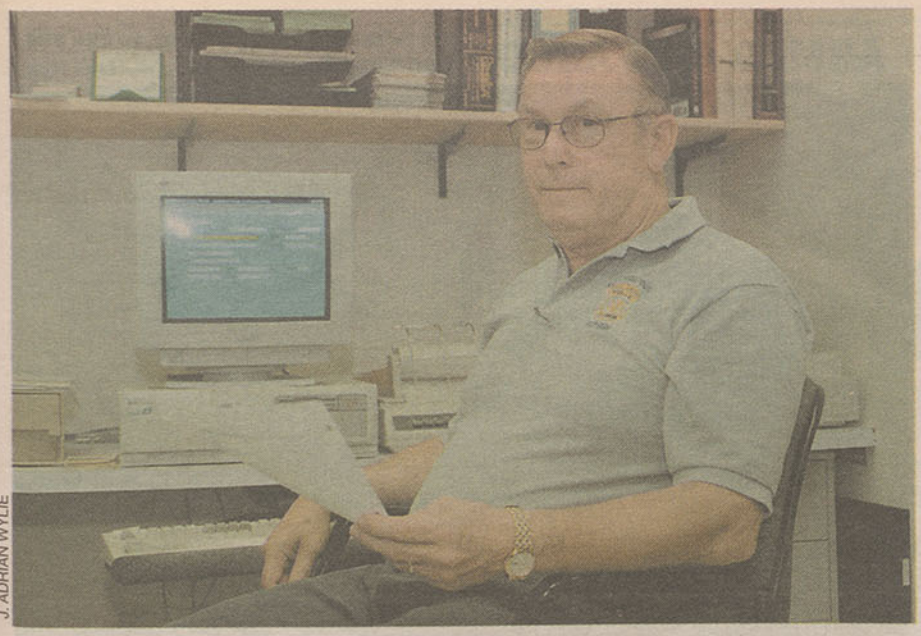
NICS checks the background of the person purchasing a gun. But what about the gun itself? What if it was stolen? How is it traced if used in a crime? In Michigan the answers depend on whether you're talking about long guns or handguns. Records of long-gun serial numbers are kept at the store that sold the gun on a yellow form created by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms. This is a decentralized, hard-to-use system for tracing gun ownership, and it suits the pro-gun folks just fine. On the other hand, handgun ownership records in Michigan have been centrally kept since 1927. Every time a handgun changes hands in Michigan or is brought into Michigan from out of state, the owner is legally required to obtain a purchase permit from the police.

In Ann Arbor, Dave Gray issues handgun purchase permits and registers guns after people buy them. A retired police detective who is now a civilian employee of the department, Gray works out of a small, windowless office in the basement of City Hall. In accordance with state law, Gray will hand you a one-page pamphlet on basic pistol safety, give you about ten minutes to study it, and then administer a fifteen-question true-false test.

A score of 70 percent is passing, and it's easy to guess the right answers to questions like "You should treat every pistol as if it were loaded" and "Possession of a pistol while under the influence of alcohol is unlawful." An elementary schoolchild could probably pass the handgun test. In fact, in the five years Gray has been administering it, no one has ever failed, though some had to take the test a second time before they passed.

After you pass the test, Gray will enter some basic information, including your name, address, race, occupation, and hair

J. ADRIAN WYLIE



J. ADRIAN WYLIE

In Ann Arbor, Dave Gray is the man to see for a handgun permit. The state test he administers isn't hard—in the five years Gray has given it, no one has ever failed.

and eye color, into a combined state and NICS database to see whether there's anything on your record that would prevent you from legally buying a gun. For most people, the search takes less than a minute. In addition to the NICS search of crime records, the Michigan database will let Gray know if you've ever been found legally insane; such findings are so rare, however, that he has yet to have one turn up.

Gray says some people have called him, told him that they have a mentally unstable relative, and requested that he

You can decide to purchase a handgun in the morning and have it legally tucked under your pillow that night.

deny a permit should the relative come in for one. The police ask that a letter be sent to them from a doctor verifying the problem; they then will honor the request if the individual comes in. And by law, Gray may withhold a permit from anyone he considers unstable. Ten years in a fraud unit and nearly thirty years as an officer have honed his ability to assess character, and he says he "would rather deny someone a permit than give them one and have something happen."

If he finds nothing wrong, Gray will take the information you've provided and print it in triplicate on a small green form called Application and License to Purchase a Pistol. After you raise your hand and swear to the validity of the information on the form, he'll give you your copy, which you will present at the store when buying your handgun. Within ten days of the purchase, you'll need to return to Gray's office so that he can take down the serial number for his records.

As Pete Linden says, the law involving gun sales is complex. But for the would-be gun owner, it's not a very big obstacle. You can decide to purchase a handgun in the morning and have it legally tucked under your pillow that night.

A slice of life at Dunham's firearm counter

If you want to buy a long gun, things are even easier. You can skip the visit to Dave Gray and go straight to Dunham's Discount Sports in the Maple Village Shopping Center.

Most Dunham's customers have probably never seen the three dozen shotguns and rifles displayed in the store, because they're tucked back against a wall. They're behind a waist-high glass case holding the small stuff—a starter pistol, some pellet guns, and boxes and boxes of ammunition. The security of the case is totally superfluous, because in addition to the ammunition in the case there are hundreds of boxes small enough to slip into a shirt pocket on top of the case and on the floor in front of it.

The counter is unattended for a few minutes before a salesman comes over. He has grey hair, a trimmed beard, and a bulging waist, and looks to be in his late sixties. His name tag says "Tom."

Tom can see I'm interested in guns, and responds with a sales pitch and his own story. He tells me he is an avid hunter with three grown sons, who went with him to gun safety classes and on hunting trips.

"I got this one myself not too long ago," he says, pointing to a shotgun. At home he has half a dozen more shotguns, handguns, and rifles to keep it company, with different ranges and different ammo size requirements, for hunting different types of birds and other animals. He explains that you wouldn't use the same firearm to shoot deer that you would to shoot squirrels.

Tom asks me if I want to hold one. He unlocks the cable holding all the weapons together and hands me a rifle, with its trigger lock still in place. It feels heavy in my hands. I feel powerful, and uncomfortable. I hand it back to him, quickly.

"Aren't you worried about some nut breaking into your house and stealing your guns?" I ask. "I think everyone should be responsible for their own guns—I've got mine in a safe," he answers, motioning to

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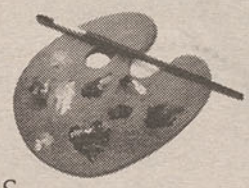

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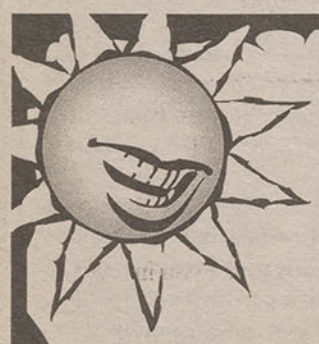

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ARMED ANN ARBOR *continued*

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

The volume seller: Dunham's small arsenal caters to the mass market.

a row of shiny, coffin-size metal boxes near the row of shotguns. But, he says, leaning over close, "I think that if that happened, at least I tried [to prevent it]."

The shotguns and rifles with green camouflage or brown wood stocks seem almost friendly next to the three matte black pump-action shotguns labeled "Home Protection Shotgun." The difference, besides color? "Home protection" shotguns have a shorter barrel, for ease of storage and also presumably because you'd be shooting an intruder at closer range than a deer. Also, Tom explains, the shorter barrel scatters the buckshot more.

The only customers this summer afternoon are two boys, both under twelve, both eyeing the BB guns. One boy is scolded and shooed away by his mother; the other's mother walks over with him and inquires about purchasing ammunition.

Just try finding a boy without a gun—a toy gun, that is. But is boys' interest in guns a stepping-stone to violence? Gun owners I interviewed taught their sons to be responsible and safe. Still, the statistics are scary: of the fourteen people highlighted in *Newsweek* last summer as involved in terrible firearm-related crimes over two years, all were males, and most were under eighteen. Six were under sixteen.

On a different summer day, I return to Dunham's. This time, I tell Tom that my interest in guns stems from an article I'm writing on the subject. At that, Tom becomes reluctant to chat. Eventually, I am told that no one at Dunham's will take responsibility and grant him permission to be formally interviewed—neither his boss, his district manager, nor Dunham's headquarters in Waterford, Michigan.

Meanwhile, I talk to Otho Ulrich. He's at Dunham's looking for a specific long gun he's been thinking about purchasing. Heavyset, with a white, slightly unkempt beard and longish hair, and dressed in a yellow polo shirt and black jeans, Ulrich could easily fit the redneck hunter stereotype—until he pulls a Palm Pilot out of his pocket.

Ulrich is a physicist, an ordnance expert who worked for KMS for years doing research for the defense industry; he now works for a KMS spin-off. He's looking for a new rifle to take with him when he goes backpacking, mostly for personal protection. Like Tom, he keeps his guns in a safe. He has two boys, whom he has taught about firearms. "I think they need to know how to shoot and not be afraid of it, and not see it as something to be curious about," he says. "They need to see it as what it is."

Ulrich has been around guns all his life. "My grandfather had a farm, and my father had a small gun for shooting varmints—he'd shoot red squirrels that would get into his cottages and make a mess. It was just a normal thing.

"But there's so much emotion on both sides of the issue. I'm probably one of the few people who belongs to both the ACLU and NRA. I think sometimes NRA goes overboard on arguments, but the way Chicago and L.A. are suing gun makers for what is really an oversight in policing gun owners is also a travesty in some ways, because I do believe that gun laws on the books, if enforced, would serve to prevent guns from getting into the hands of dangerous people."

I ask Ulrich what he thinks about research that says that gun violence is overwhelmingly dependent on easy access to a weapon. "I wouldn't disagree," he replies, "but it's because of overaccess to illegal guns, not legal guns. The point is if the FBI and ATF did their job and policed gun dealers—that's not an insubstantial chunk of work—we'd see a lot less diverted into straw sales [legally purchased guns that are resold illegally].

"Are you going to be a hundred percent secure and sell a gun to someone who won't go nuts next year?" Ulrich asks rhetorically. "There's no certainty. I think we should enforce laws we have before we enact more laws that may not be enforced."

Ann Arbor police lieutenant Jim Tieman, who runs the department's major crimes unit, agrees that what's needed is stricter law enforcement—but for criminals, not gun dealers. "We have wonderful laws on paper, but ask the prosecutor's office how often people who use a firearm in a felony are charged with felony firearm [a separate offense with a two-year mandatory sentence]. With prosecu-

tors' offices in general, I know what you will find—it's not used, very rarely. It's a plea-bargaining tool." He suggests that the threat of stricter punishment might reduce gun crimes but that stricter laws won't make a dent in the problem. "You can put all the laws on the book, but they [criminals] still won't register."

"I think they need to know how to shoot and not be afraid of it, and not see it as something to be curious about."

Killed with an illegal gun

Hundreds of law-abiding citizens do register in Ann Arbor. Last year Dave Gray issued 373 licenses to purchase handguns, and 312 pistols were registered. (Those who got the license to purchase but did not register their gun either decided not to buy it, or bought it and did not register it.) From January 1 through mid-November of this year, Gray issued 327 handgun permits, and all but forty-six of those people bought the handgun and came back to register it.

But Otho Ulrich is right: some people who should be screened out still manage to obtain guns. Ann Arbor police records don't indicate what proportion of guns involved in crimes were stolen or illegally purchased. (Often the police don't know, because even when crimes with guns are solved, the weapon may not be recovered.) But one recent case that may have involved an illegally obtained gun is that of Abdul-Ghdier Elkhoja. A twenty-one-year-old Ann Arbor resident, Elkhoja is accused of fatally shooting Nicolas Seitz at a party on East University in June of this year.

Lieutenant Tieman says that had Elkhoja applied to purchase a handgun since the Brady Bill took effect, he would have been rejected. But Elkhoja apparently acquired a gun anyway—police don't yet know how. They believe that he used it after midnight in a confrontation between two groups of strangers.

The situation, as police have pieced it together, was Ann Arbor's version of the macho barroom brawl in a Western movie: it started when a man's lady was insulted, and ended when another man pulled his gun and started firing.

As reported in the *Ann Arbor News,* the fight began on the evening of June 5, when someone at the party catcalled at a woman passing by. At about three the next morning, Seitz joined the woman's boyfriend and several others who went back to resume the conflict. Elkhoja, who was attending a party across the street, became involved.

Exactly what was said and done next remains in dispute, but there is no debate about the outcome: Seitz was killed by a single gunshot wound to the chest. Elkhoja was charged with open murder and using a firearm to commit a felony. He pleaded not guilty. Currently, he is in jail awaiting trial in January.

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ARMED ANN ARBOR *continued*

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Trucker Todd Thurkow (right) makes his case for carrying a concealed weapon.

The police know that no gun was legally registered to Elkhoja. Because he is not cooperating with the investigation, they can only guess that the weapon was borrowed or stolen. On a tip, they drained a pond near Elkhoja's northeast Ann Arbor townhouse; they found plenty of mud, but no gun.

Getting a concealed-weapons permit in Washtenaw County

Each month a dozen or so handgun owners sit knee to knee in a small waiting room in the Washtenaw County Courthouse on Huron. They're requesting what they see as the ultimate in personal protection—a permit to carry a concealed weapon. When I was there last summer, a few sweated in jackets and ties, many wore sport shirts, and tattoos decorated many arms. To get here, applicants have jumped through a number of hoops: filled out a three-page form, gotten fingerprint checks and references, paid the $42 fee, and gotten a letter from their employer if they want to have the gun while on the job. Now they have to explain to the Washtenaw County Gun Board why they want to carry a concealed weapon legally.

When called, each person steps into a small room barely big enough for a wooden conference table with six chairs. Three men are already seated—one stocky guy in a suit and two muscular officers in uniforms, guns holstered at their sides. They're today's Gun Board: Steve Hiller, deputy chief assistant prosecutor; lieutenant Ellis Stafford, assistant post commander of the Ypsilanti post of the Michigan State Police; and sergeant Ron Owens of the Washtenaw Country Sheriff's Department.

Todd Thurkow, twenty-seven, a Chelsea resident with a long red ZZ Top–style beard, a red ponytail, and alert baby-blue eyes, walks in sporting a clean T-shirt and a dirty NRA cap. Thurkow is a trucker, and he wants permission to carry his pistol in his eighteen-wheeler.

"Howdy, folks. How are you doing today?" he asks the board as he walks in. His friendly good-ol'-boy confidence makes him stand out from the other, more reserved, applicants, but has no visible effect on the Gun Board. Time after time, the members ask the same thing: "Why do you want to use a concealed weapon?" Then, to find out how the weapon might be used: "Where does your work take you? What are your hours? If you want to use the gun at work, do you have a letter from your boss approving the use?" An applicant claiming to need the gun for protection is asked, "Have you been threatened?"

Just wanting to have your pistol on your hip as you drive into Detroit gets you nowhere with the Gun Board.

The questions have right and wrong answers. According to Steve Hiller, the most commonly given reason deemed unacceptable is "a generalized apprehension about a lawless society." Just wanting to have your pistol on your hip as you drive into Detroit gets you nowhere with the Gun Board.

The right answers are no secret. Some are plainly stated on the application form, such as this line printed in all capitals: "If request is in connection with carrying sums of money, applicant must submit evidence of need; therefore, these items should be presented to the Gun Board at the time of the applicant's interview." Thurkow is one of four people this day who will use that argument ("It takes three hundred dollars just to fill that puppy up," he says, speaking of his truck). Only one of the four, however, has brought along the requested bank cash deposit receipts or daily cash accounting books to convince the board. She receives her permit. Thurkow and the two others are tabled until next month.

All the other applicants get a permit, except for one man with a drunken driving conviction who's appealing a previous rejection. They now face only one more

hoop before they can pick up their permit to carry a concealed weapon: they must show they have passed an NRA-approved concealed-weapons course or received equivalent training.

Who carries a concealed weapon in Washtenaw County? Those approved at today's meeting include a well-dressed anesthesiologist who is a crime target because he carries narcotics to fill pumps for patients with chronic pain; a man who drives to shooting competitions with numerous rifles and a hefty supply of ammunition that might attract thieves; a senior citizen and gun collector who also frequently travels with guns; a hunter; and a fortyish woman who manages a restaurant and is especially wary for her safety because she was raped as a teen. All the permits are restricted: the holders can carry weapons only when they need to.

The board interview struck me as an organized information-gathering system, not a yes-or-no rubber stamp. The board could be persuaded. A lawyer with a Woody Allen physique expecting a violent reaction from a man he would be naming soon in a suit had a hard time proving his case to the board until his lawyer skills kicked into high gear. He argued that he met the criteria: "I have good reason to fear for my safety." He pleaded: "I have a wife and two kids and don't want to leave them alone." He debated the law: "I don't think the test should be that I've had a specific threat. I think the test should be a reasonable fear." Steve Hiller had met his match. He looked back down at the application, reviewed the background information, and eventually approved the concealed-weapons permit with the restriction that it would be valid only while the man remained a member of the Michigan Bar.

A gun enthusiast

After the meeting I visit Todd Thurkow at home to find out a bit more about his unabashed, unapologetic enthusiasm for guns. A friendly retriever is tied up outside his small ranch house on a city street close to the Chelsea Fairgrounds. A red pickup and two tarp-covered cars are parked in the driveway. His rig is down the street. He used to keep it on his front lawn, insisting he could park it there legally because his yard was church property. The Chelsea authorities replied that he needed a special-use permit even if he had registered his place as the Libertarian Church of St. Gambrinus. (St. Gambrinus is the patron saint for fermented beverages.)

Thurkow's dark living room has two old couches, Rolling Stones posters, a Harley-Davidson sign, guitars, CDs, and a stereo. "Would you like a Coke?" he asks politely. Fresh air blows in through the screen door as I sip and Todd smokes cigarette after cigarette with blackened fingers.

Thurkow grew up with guns. His dad gave him a BB gun when he was six years old and his first "real gun" when he was eleven. When other kids were studying or playing sports, he was hunting. He even took his rifle to school—legally, locked in his truck—as he sandwiched in classes at Chelsea High School between early morning and late afternoon rabbit-hunting ses-

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ARMED ANN ARBOR
continued

sions. "I'd gut them and leave the meat sitting in the cooler in the truck. I remember the parking lot monitor would ask me every morning, 'Did you get anything this morning?'"

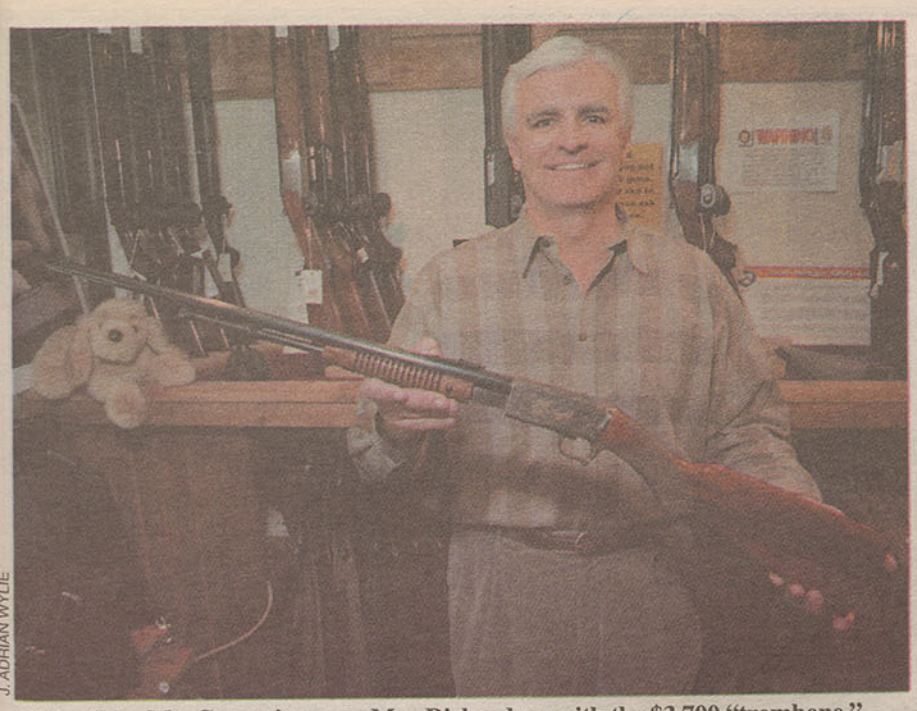
Last year, a neighbor took advantage of Thurkow's high-profile gun ownership: he and a friend broke into Thurkow's home and stole two handguns. Both men were caught, but only one was charged and convicted. Ironically, he was given a sentence of six months at Camp Waterloo, just outside Chelsea. Thurkow later saw him working across the street with other boot camp inmates, cleaning the fairgrounds.

Thurkow's enthusiasm remains steadfast since the robbery—besides working as a trucker and managing a local rock band, the High Rollers, he is also an independent contractor recruiting for the NRA (he gets a commission for every person he signs up, which helps pay his own dues). He has made changes, though. He's purchased a huge safe that he proudly shows me, neatly lined with handguns on the doors, rifles and shotguns standing up, and stacked rows of ammunition. He says it's to "protect his investment." He worries that someone could get killed with his stolen handgun, including himself. He mentioned the fact as part of his argument for carrying a concealed weapon. At the next Gun Board meeting, he'll bring in proof of his need to carry cash, and his permit will be approved.

The concealed-weapons tug of war

Todd Thurkow looks forward to the day when getting a concealed-weapons permit will be as easy as getting a driver's license. But that day hasn't yet come. This year, state legislation was pending for strict Michigan to loosen up and join the twenty-eight other "shall issue" states. That would mean that practically all nonfelons would be allowed to carry concealed handguns. By June of this year, however, Governor Engler decided not to fight the anti-gun feelings stirred up by the Columbine massacre. He refused to consider the controversial bills before the legislature took its summer break.

Though the state law didn't pass, there are counties in Michigan where getting a concealed-weapons permit is easy. The rub is that you have to live in them. Macomb County, home of state senator Dave Jaye, who introduced the quashed "shall issue" legislation, is the least restrictive in its concealed-weapons rules. In late 1995, Macomb County prosecutor Carl Marlinga changed the system so that the county now bears the burden of showing why an applicant should be denied a permit; the county may no longer demand that the applicant demonstrate a specific need to carry a concealed weapon. According to an article in the *Detroit News* last year, the number of people who obtained permits in Macomb County more than tripled after the change, from 1,306 in 1995 to 4,174 in 1997. Meanwhile, the major-crime rate



J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Collectible: MacGregor's owner Mac Richardson with the $3,700 "trombone."

in Macomb County dropped by 28 percent between 1996 and 1998, the largest reduction of any county in Michigan (statewide, major crimes fell 7 percent in the same period).

The NRA and gun lovers like Jim Trevor say that the more concealed weapons there are on the streets, the better off we all are. "It's been proven that when more people have concealed weapons, criminals know that the victim may fight back. They're less likely to go through with the crime if they feel like their life is in jeopardy," says Trevor, citing the book *More Guns, Less Crime,* by University of Chicago professor John R. Lott Jr.

This research is hotly debated on the Internet. The NRA defends the book at www.nra.org. Meanwhile, Handgun Control, the lobby that pushed the Brady Bill through, attacks Lott's research at its site, handguncontrol.org. In rebuttal, Handgun Control cites a 1995 study by David McDowell of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Susan Morrel-Samuels, from the U-M School of Public Health, looks at the issue from the public health perspective. "The question that public health experts ask," she says, "is how can we protect the public from firearm injuries?" Morrel-Samuels says that declines in crime have occurred in all states, not just jurisdictions that make it easier to carry a concealed weapon. She attributes these drops to "changes in demographics, changes in drug trafficking patterns, more effective policing policies, and the strong economy."

"It's been proven that when more people have concealed weapons, criminals know that the victim may fight back. They're less likely to go through with the crime if they feel like their life is in jeopardy."

MacGregor's cuts its niche

Guys like Todd Thurkow probably don't buy their guns at the most upscale gun store in town, MacGregor's Outdoors, in a restored house on North Main. The salesman, Jim (he wouldn't give his last name), describes his clientele as " 'the gentleman sportsman'—we get a ton of people from the university, professionals, doctors, dentists, high-stress individuals who need an outlet." Jim is quick to say that guns are a small part of the store's business—he'd rather show off a featherlight Orvis fly-fishing rod than talk about guns—but "they're pretty, and they draw people in." Pretty and expensive: the cheapest rifle or shotgun MacGregor's sells is $700, and many are in the $1,000–$3,000 range.

Don, a sixty-five-year-old customer, drove from Brighton to look for a rifle for his adult son. Grey-haired and balding, he wears a knit shirt with a small "polo" crest over his heart, cuffed cotton pants, brown leather penny loafers with antique buffalo-head nickels instead of pennies, a silver bracelet, and a heavy gold gemstone ring. He asks Jim to show him a "trombone."

The salesman leads him to a table where a meticulously crafted gun lies majestically in a case lined with fake fur (all of MacGregor's other guns stand in wooden racks against the wall). The price tag says $3,700. "That's a beauty," says Don, impressed. "Trombones," Jim explains, are Belgian-made Browning pump-action twenty-twos, so rare that they're bought as investments.

The trombone is beautiful enough to blow its own horn. Between the trigger and barrel, a scene is engraved on a piece of stainless steel the size of a business card: a hunting dog chasing pheasants in

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For example, you might have feelings about always being the one to clean the house, repair the car, or plan vacations. The angry person will be able to talk about the situation in such a way as to promote some change in the arrangements. The enraged person, on the other hand, will get so caught up in the rage as to become a prisoner of the feelings, unable to act on his or her own behalf.

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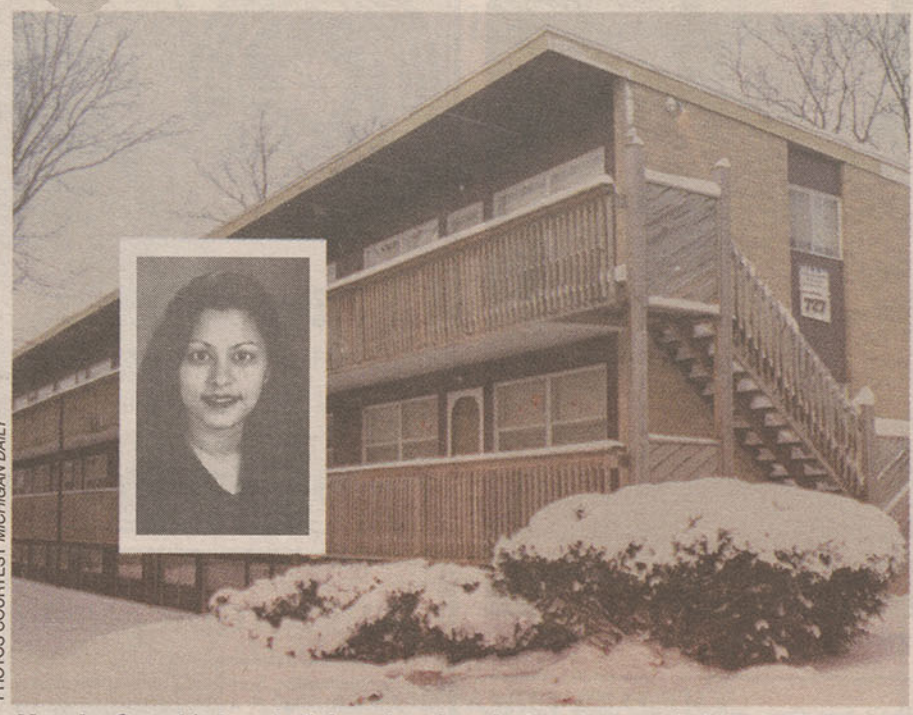

PHOTOS COURTESY *MICHIGAN DAILY*

Natasha Qureshi obeyed all the rules when she bought a gun in March. Three days later, she killed her ex-boyfriend and herself at his Kingsley St. apartment.

the air, with the dog and pheasants embossed in gold leaf. Roy Rogers himself might have been proud to wear that engraving on a belt buckle. "Look at the high polish on the walnut stock and checking [embedded crisscross lines] on the barrel, how the wood meets the metal, the bluing on the metal of the barrel," Don says. "The guns in Dunham's have stocks made out of beech wood or crating lumber.

"If I had that gun," he adds, "I may not even fire it. Of the two hundred guns I've owned, I haven't fired more than twenty." Though he, too, doesn't want to give his last name, he's happy to talk about his guns, and he tells me that he's never broken a law in his life. "They don't write articles about us, because we don't go in and shoot churches up," he says.

Such tragedies, he says, reflect a change in morality. "We never thought of taking something [a gun] to school, never. That would be like stabbing your parent in the heart. When we had a fight, we went out and duked it out."

The firearms in MacGregor's are almost all shotguns, used by people who shoot at moving targets (sporting clays, trap, and skeet) and hunt birds, including doves, pheasants, and ducks. The trombone is the exception, a "plinker," so called because the small bullets it fires aren't good for much more than shooting at tin cans to hear the "plink" sound. The fancy walnut and the metal inlays on many of the guns wouldn't hold up well in bad weather, so they might not be a deer hunter's first choice.

After Don leaves, Jim says that he was a typical customer in some ways—"Ninety percent are middle-aged white guys like me"—but not typical in his strong political views. (Don kept trying to steer the conversation to his love for the NRA and hatred of Clinton.) "On Saturday morning customers come in, hang out, drink coffee, and swap fishing and hunting stories." A golf tournament on a TV in an armoire draws standing viewers. "We have everything here but a potbellied stove," Jim says. He never worries that a rifle or shotgun he sells might be used against a person. "Absolutely not," he says. "We sell to a very high-class, talented customer."

Natasha buys a gun

MacGregor's, like Dunham's, doesn't sell handguns. In fact, just about the only place you can get a "real" handgun in Ann Arbor is Investment Rarities—which is probably why Natasha Qureshi went there this past March to buy a pistol.

As the law requires, Qureshi first applied for a permit in Dave Gray's office in the basement of City Hall. Gray did a NICS search, which confirmed that the twenty-one-year-old U-M senior had no criminal record. Gray gave her the booklet of handgun rules and administered the state test; like everyone else, she passed it. She raised her hand, swore that the information provided on her application was true, and got her permit.

Qureshi drove to Investment Rarities and handed the small green form to Pete Linden. The form told him she had already been cleared by the NICS database and Dave Gray. Linden, like Gray, found her unremarkable. As Linden recalls, "She had all these questions—where do I go to practice, where can I go to shoot. She seemed like a real nice girl." He sold her the nine-millimeter Beretta semiautomatic she selected.

After purchasing the gun, Qureshi was required by law to return to Dave Gray's office within ten days to register its serial number. She never did—but the Beretta found its way back to the Ann Arbor police just the same.

Three days after Qureshi bought the gun, she and her ex-boyfriend, Christopher Groesbeck, twenty-two, a recent U-M graduate, were found dead on East Kingsley. A police investigation determined that Qureshi had confronted Groesbeck in his apartment, slit her wrists, shot and killed him, and finally shot and killed herself.

Qureshi was obviously a deeply troubled woman—but to Groesbeck's tragic misfortune, she was also a master at hiding her feelings. It wasn't just Dave Gray and Pete Linden she fooled. According to the *Ann Arbor News,* a neighbor accompanied Qureshi on a weekend trip to Toronto only days before the killings but had no clue of any problem.

The cost of Qureshi's deception was high. Groesbeck's roommate, Jacques Kobersy, told the *Michigan Daily* that when Qureshi murdered Groesbeck, "she took life that bubbled from his eyes, his smile, and his actions. She took from him the friends and family who loved him, and that is something we will never recover from."

Do we need stricter gun controls because a deceptively "together" person like Natasha Qureshi can commit a terrible murder with no warning? Jim Tieman of the Ann Arbor police doesn't think so. "There's no perfect solution to prevent it," he argues. "People who want to maim people will."

Dave Gray "took it personally" that he had failed to detect Qureshi's true state of mind, says a colleague, police staff sergeant Richard Kinsey. But in retrospect, Gray doesn't see how he could have done things any differently. "The state sets up certain guidelines, and they [the applicants] have to swear to me that they don't have certain problems," he says. "If I feel satisfied that they are okay, what else can you do?"

"She had all these questions–where do I go to practice, where can I go to shoot. She seemed like a real nice girl." He sold her the nine-millimeter Beretta semiautomatic she selected.

And that appears to be the bottom line: although the Brady Bill has reduced the number of felons buying guns legally, some apparently manage to obtain them nonetheless. And the law can do nothing at all about those who, like Natasha Qureshi, successfully conceal their deadly intent.

While the gun Elkhoja is accused of using remains unaccounted for, Qureshi's Beretta, at least, will do no further harm. After being sent to the Michigan State Police crime lab in Lansing for analysis, it was returned to the Ann Arbor police. As soon as the last paperwork is completed, it will be shipped to a smelter near Muskegon. There it will be destroyed—melted down to make counterweights for construction equipment. ■

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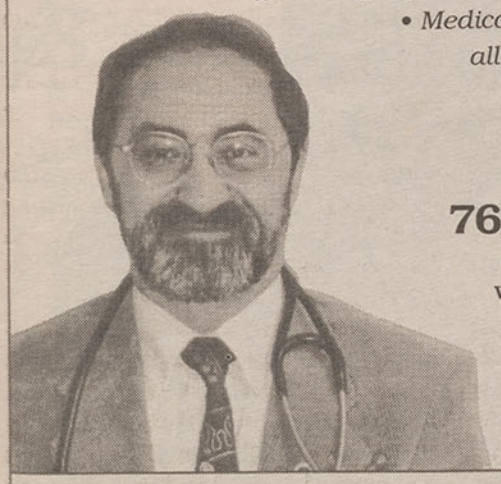

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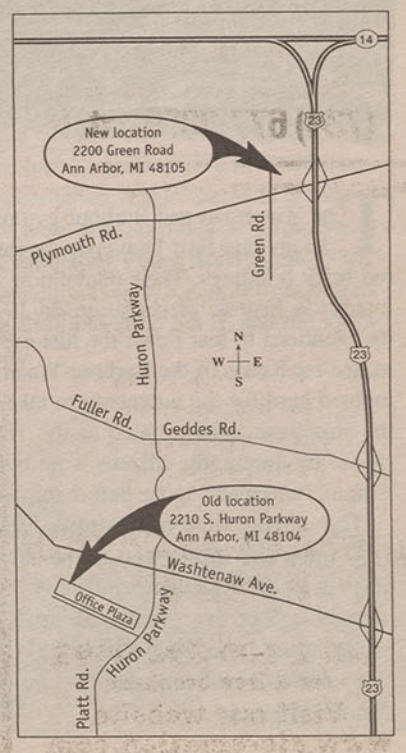

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The Lost University

The forgotten campus of 1900

by Susan Wineberg

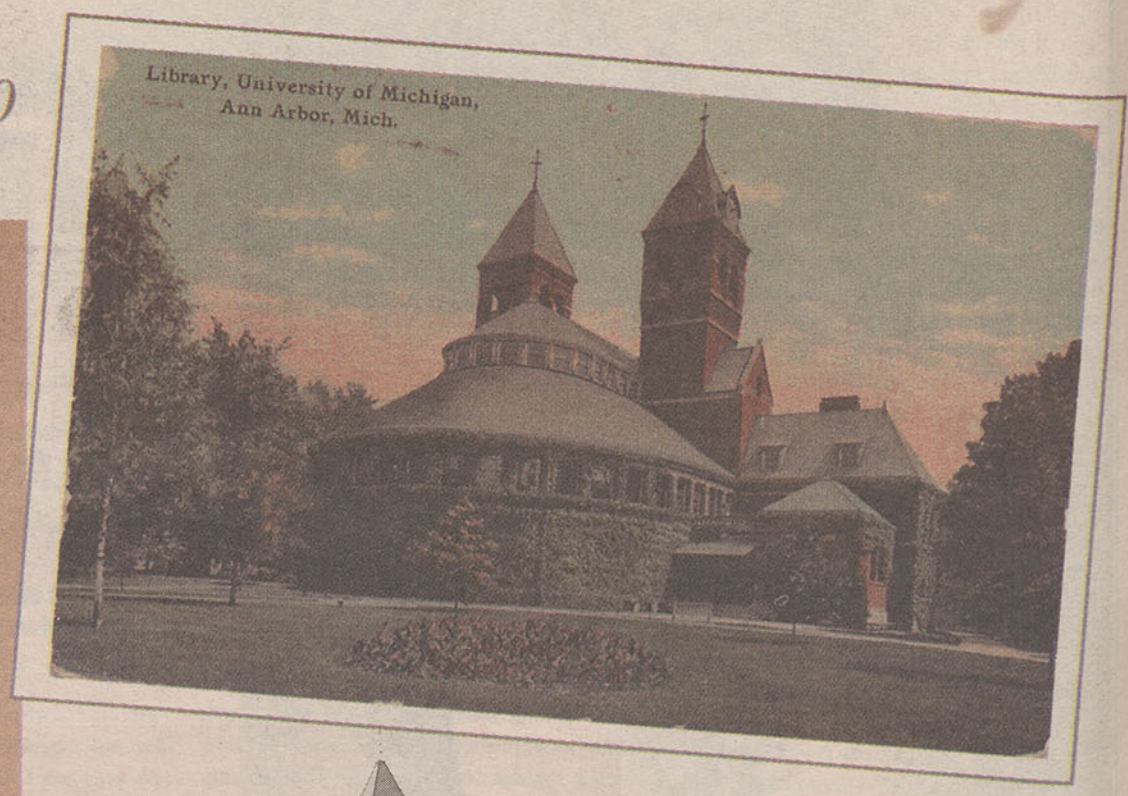
Ann Arbor today would be just another small Michigan town—no bigger, perhaps, than Saline or Chelsea—had it not been for one crucial event: in 1837, just thirteen years after its founding, it was designated the site for the University of Michigan.

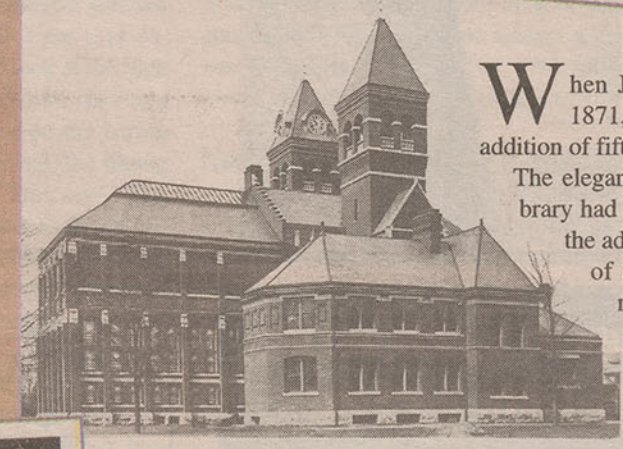
The initial campus, situated on forty acres donated by the Ann Arbor Land Company, was a tiny affair, consisting of one combination classroom building and dormitory along with four professors' houses. The president's house on South University is the lone survivor from that first generation of campus buildings. Though still used as a residence, it has been vastly altered over the intervening 160 years.

The "Diag" took its name from the diagonal walk that crossed what was then largely an open field. But the campus grew quickly, particularly under dynamic presidents Henry Philip Tappan (1852–1863) and James Burrill Angell (1871–1909).

Except for Tappan's observatory and Angell's Catherine Street hospitals, almost all of the nineteenth-century construction took place on the Diag. By the turn of the century, campus was thick with structures, most built of red brick in a weighty Romanesque style.

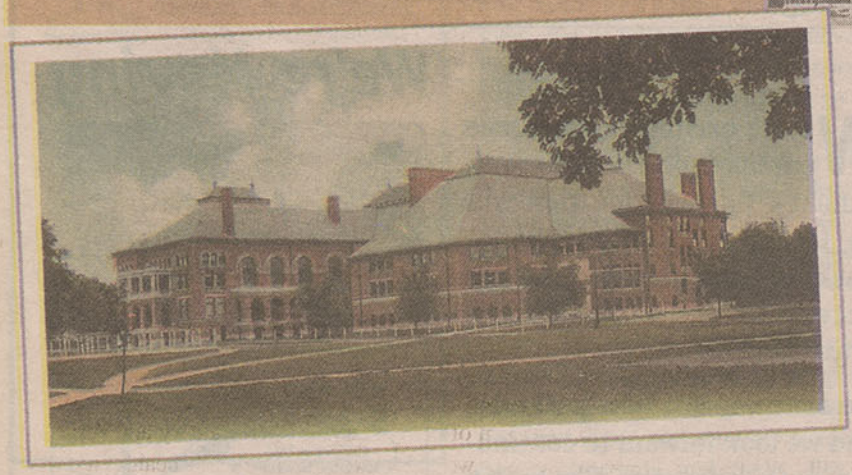
Almost all were swept away as the U-M's growth accelerated in the twentieth century. The Diag was completely rebuilt, and surrounding properties were acquired to extend the university's presence far beyond the original campus borders. Today only tiny Tappan Hall, hidden away between the art museum and the president's house, survives as a reminder of the red-brick campus of 1900.





When James Burrill Angell arrived as president in 1871, the U-M had nine buildings. He oversaw the addition of fifty more before stepping down in 1909.

The elegant oval shape of Angell's 1883 University Library had been truncated by the turn of the century with the addition of new book storage "stacks" at the rear of the building (left), but a gracefully curved reading room still looked out on the center of the Diag. Though the older portions of the building were torn down in 1918, the stacks were incorporated into the present Graduate Library, completed in 1920.



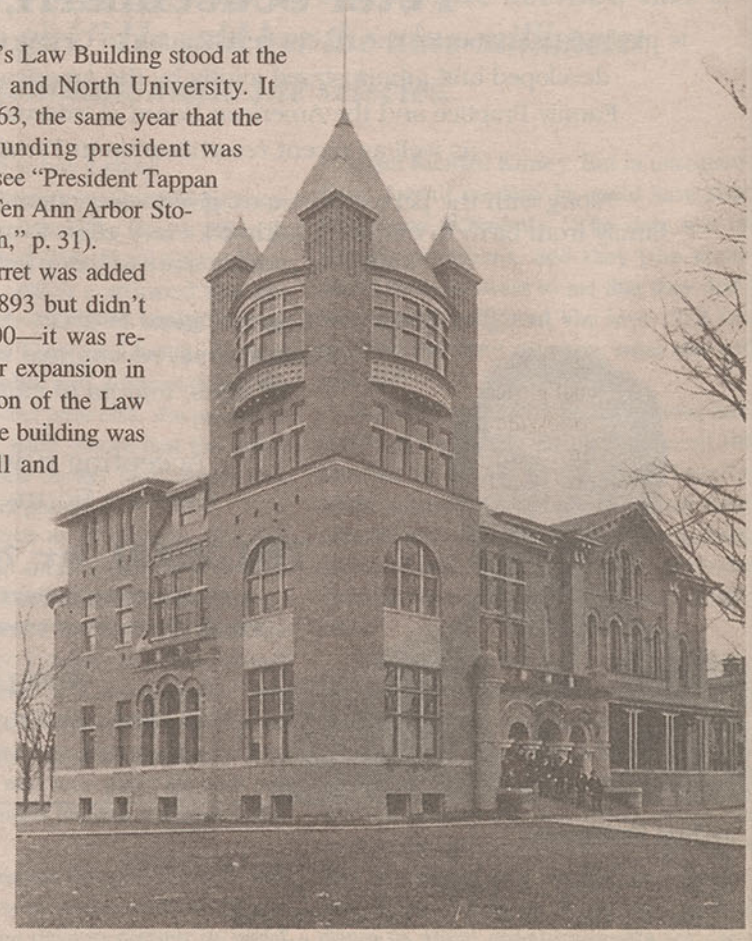
The Waterman and Barbour gymnasiums, at the corner of North University and East University, were the longest-lived of Angell's great red brick buildings. Their demolition was also a turning point in campus interest in historic preservation. In 1976, when the university announced its intentions to tear down the historic complex, a group called the Committee for Reuse of the Barbour-Waterman Buildings was established and lobbied hard for the university to take another look at alternative uses for the structures, which dated to the 1890s. Petitions were circulated and signed by thousands, citizens wore buttons saying "Recycle Barbour-Waterman," and many spoke before the regents to urge reconsideration.

The regents were not swayed, and the buildings were demolished in 1977 (their site is now part of the chemistry building). But the university has since shown greater sensitivity to historic buildings. And one unexpected result of the regents' intransigence on Barbour-Waterman was the listing of the entire original Central Campus, and other significant buildings such as Rackham and the Law Quad, on the National Register of Historic Places.

President Tappan's Law Building stood at the corner of State and North University. It was completed in 1863, the same year that the U-M's visionary founding president was fired by the regents (see "President Tappan Fired" in "The Top Ten Ann Arbor Stories of the Millennium," p. 31).

The formidable turret was added in a remodeling in 1893 but didn't quite make it to 1900—it was removed during another expansion in 1898. After completion of the Law Quad in the 1920s, the building was renamed Haven Hall and used for LS&A faculty offices. In 1950, a disgruntled student determined to obliterate a bad grade burned it down.

The modern Haven Hall is closer to the center of the Diag. The place where Tappan's Law Building stood is now a lovely, tree-shaded lawn.



PHOTOS COURTESY BENTLEY HISTORICAL LIBRARY; POSTCARDS COURTESY SUSAN WINEBERG

When it opened in 1881, the U-M's natural science museum was the first owned by a public university. Designed by architecture prof William LeBaron Jenney—later famous as the "father of the skyscraper"—the museum had a collection ranging from stuffed animals to Asian manuscripts.

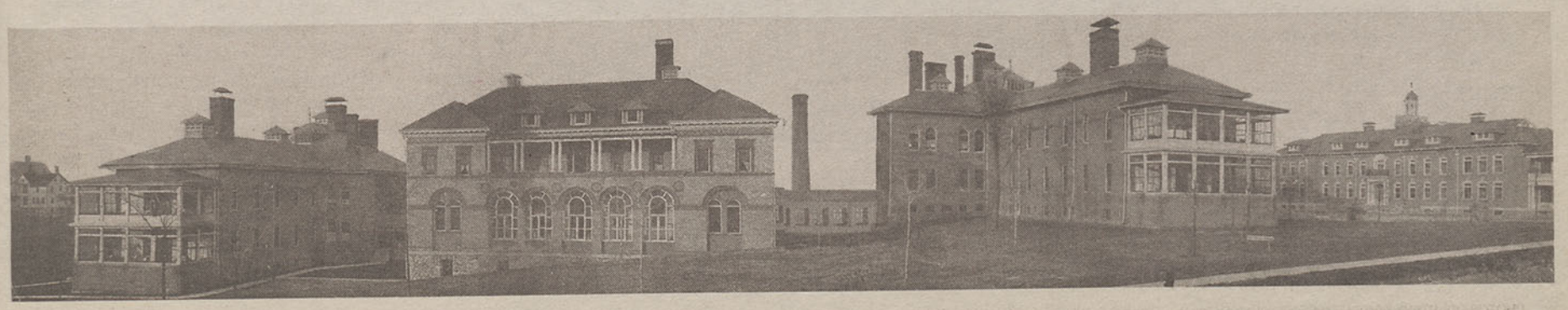
The exhibits moved to the present Ruthven Museums Building in 1928. Jenney's building housed the Romance language departments for three decades before being demolished in 1958.

Except for the crowning dome, this long, massive building parallel to State Street bears an uncanny resemblance to Angell Hall. University Hall, completed in 1871, was the U-M's first great classroom building. The impressive dome shown here was actually the building's second—the first was deemed structurally unsound and replaced in 1896. Hidden from State Street when Angell Hall was built directly in front of it in 1924, University Hall lingered on for another twenty-six years before being torn down in 1950.

Stretching the turn-of-the-century date slightly, this multipanel postcard shows the U-M's hospitals as they stood following completion of the Palmer children's ward in 1904. One of the two hospitals flanking the Palmer ward had been built for the U-M's medical doctors, the other for its homeopathic physicians. By 1900, however, the homeopaths had moved out to a new hospital on North University.

The low, many-windowed "pavilion" hospitals reflected the emerging medical thinking of the nineteenth century: before the role of germs was understood, disease was thought to be spread by "morbid" air exhaled by sick patients. It wasn't a bad guess, since it led to the division of hospitals into isolated, well-ventilated wards—steps that did help reduce the rate of hospital-induced infections.

By the turn of the century, the germ theory and antiseptic surgery were fueling great strides in health care. The homeopaths soon faded, while the M.D.'s moved into a succession of huge new hospitals—on Ann Street in the 1920s, and overlooking Fuller Road in the 1980s. The site of the old pavilion hospitals is now occupied by the Victor Vaughan Building, Med Sci II, and the Taubman Medical Library.



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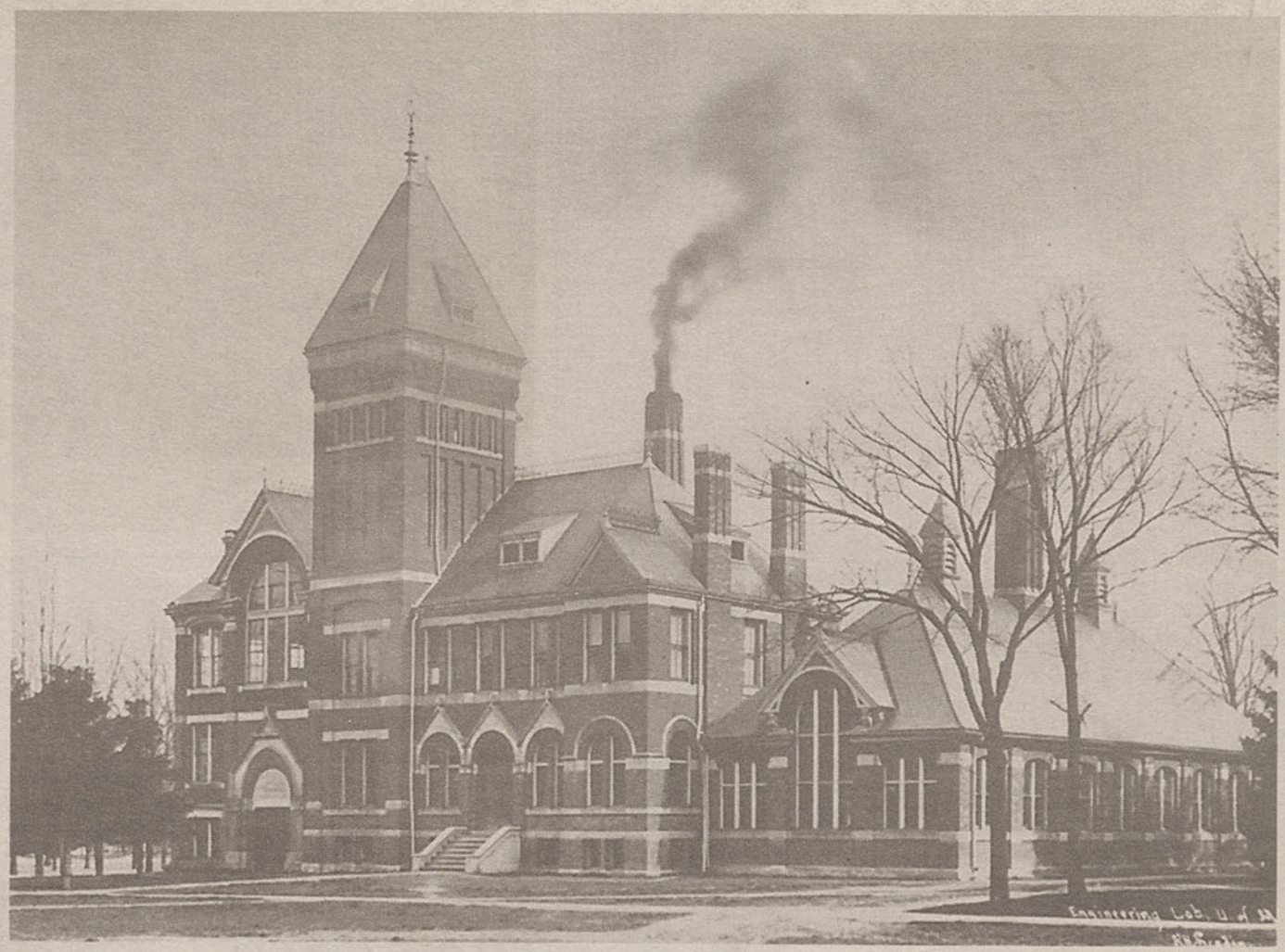


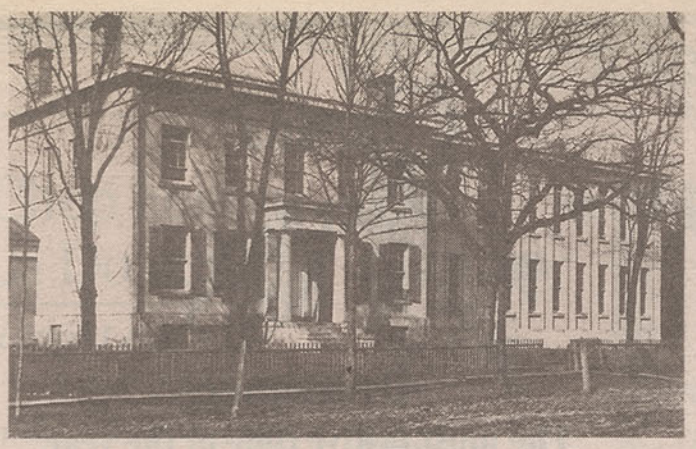
An impressive testimonial to the growing importance of the physical sciences, the 1885 Engineering Laboratory bore a striking resemblance in both style and scale to the University Library just to the north. It was designed by Gordon Lloyd, the celebrated Gothic architect best known locally for his work on two prominent churches, St. Andrew's and First Congregational.

The engineers expanded into larger quarters bordering the southeast corner of the Diag (home of the famous "Engin Arch"), then leapfrogged East University, and finally relocated en masse to a still-growing complex on North Campus. By then the 1885 laboratory was long gone—it was torn down in 1956.

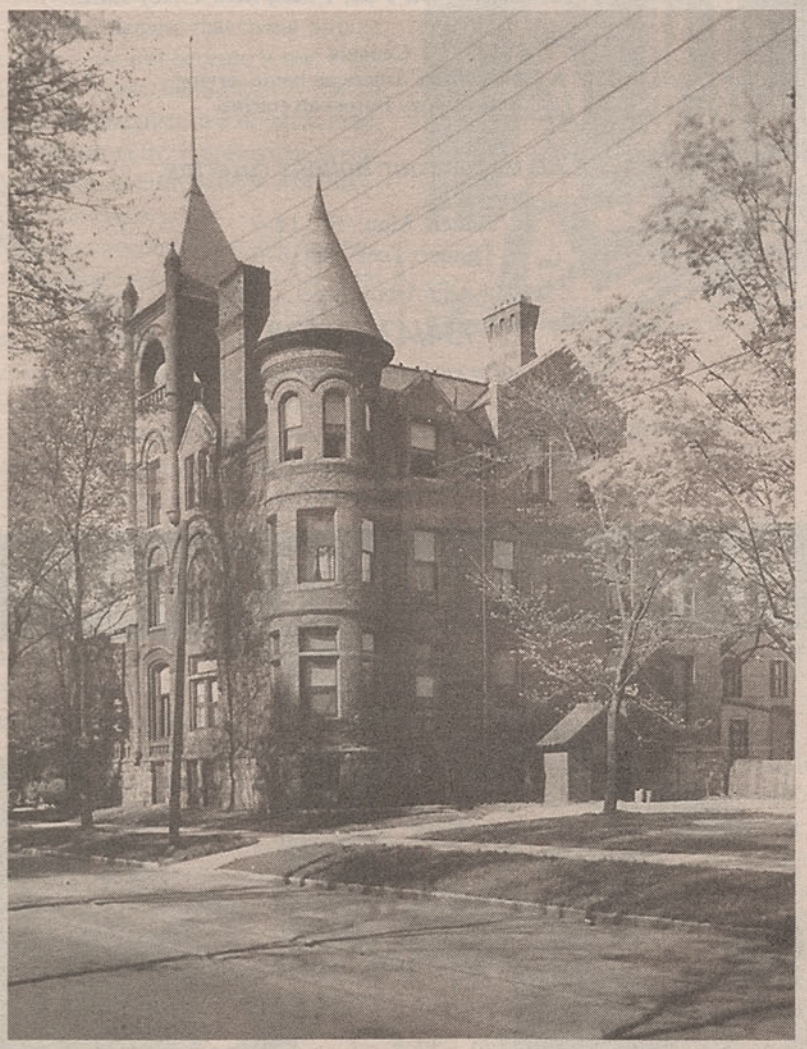
As the university expanded in the early twentieth century, it acquired and demolished many of the buildings that had bordered the original campus. Between 1909 and 1920, the university gained title to some 114 separate parcels of land, including the Arboretum, the Botanical Gardens off Packard Road, and the site of the power plant on Huron Street. But perhaps its most dramatic acquisition was professor Alexander Winchell's spectacular octagon house on North University.

Winchell served at various times as professor of geology, zoology, botany, physics, and engineering. The strong-minded Winchell was one of president Tappan's most vociferous opponents but also a powerful advocate of opening the university to women, and perhaps America's most influential supporter of Charles Darwin's then-novel theory of evolution. His unusual octagon home, built according to the tenets of Orson Fuller, a well-known phrenologist and prolific writer on health, happiness, and sex, was surrounded by extensive gardens that complemented his collections of flora and fauna, some of which are now at the Smithsonian.

After Winchell left the university in the mid-1870s, his home was rented by various fraternities. Acquired by the university in 1909, it was demolished shortly afterward to make way for Hill Auditorium.

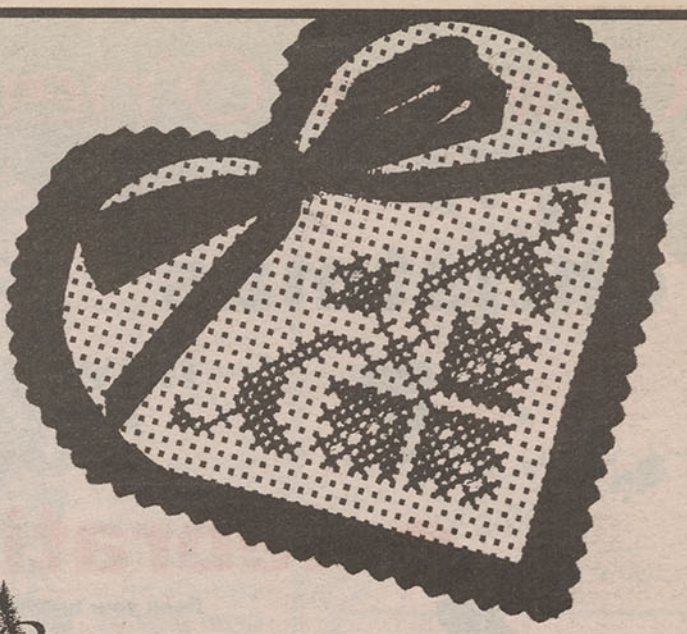


The original professors' residences from the 1840s found new uses as the campus grew. This one facing South University housed the Dental College from 1877 to 1891, adding a wing (right) in the process. The engineering department took over in 1892 and stayed until 1922, when the building was demolished to make way for the Clements Library.



The U-M Law Quad has a timeless feel, but in fact it is of comparatively recent construction. Two entire blocks of residences were demolished in the 1920s to make room for it. One of the more spectacular of the buildings lost was the 1880 Psi Upsilon fraternity house, which faced South University at the corner of State. A newspaper account from June 30, 1923, noted that "since the beginning of the second semester men have been tearing down the former fraternity houses on State Street, which occupied the land needed for the new [Lawyers] Club. Practically all of the work of the demolishing of the Psi Upsilon house has been completed and the steam shovel will clear away the remainder of the ruins. . . . Practically all of the homes in this block are now being torn down."

Until recently, it seemed that the same fate might befall the row of four nineteenth-century houses the U-M owns on Huron across from the Power Center. But after years of designating the location as a future building site, the university is now renovating and rehabbing the houses—an encouraging sign that it has finally begun to develop a preservation ethic. ■



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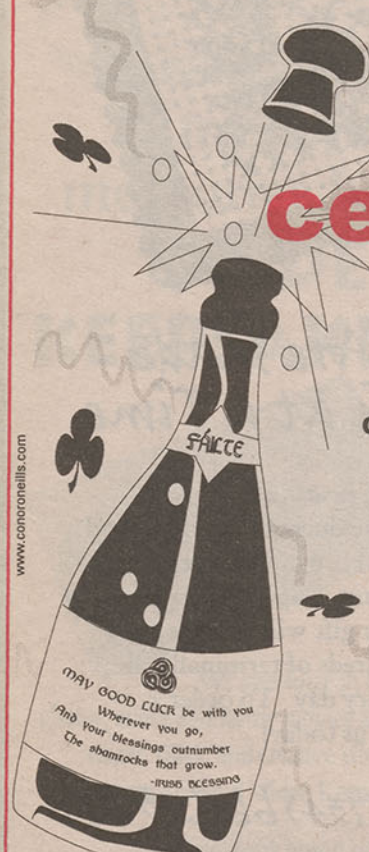

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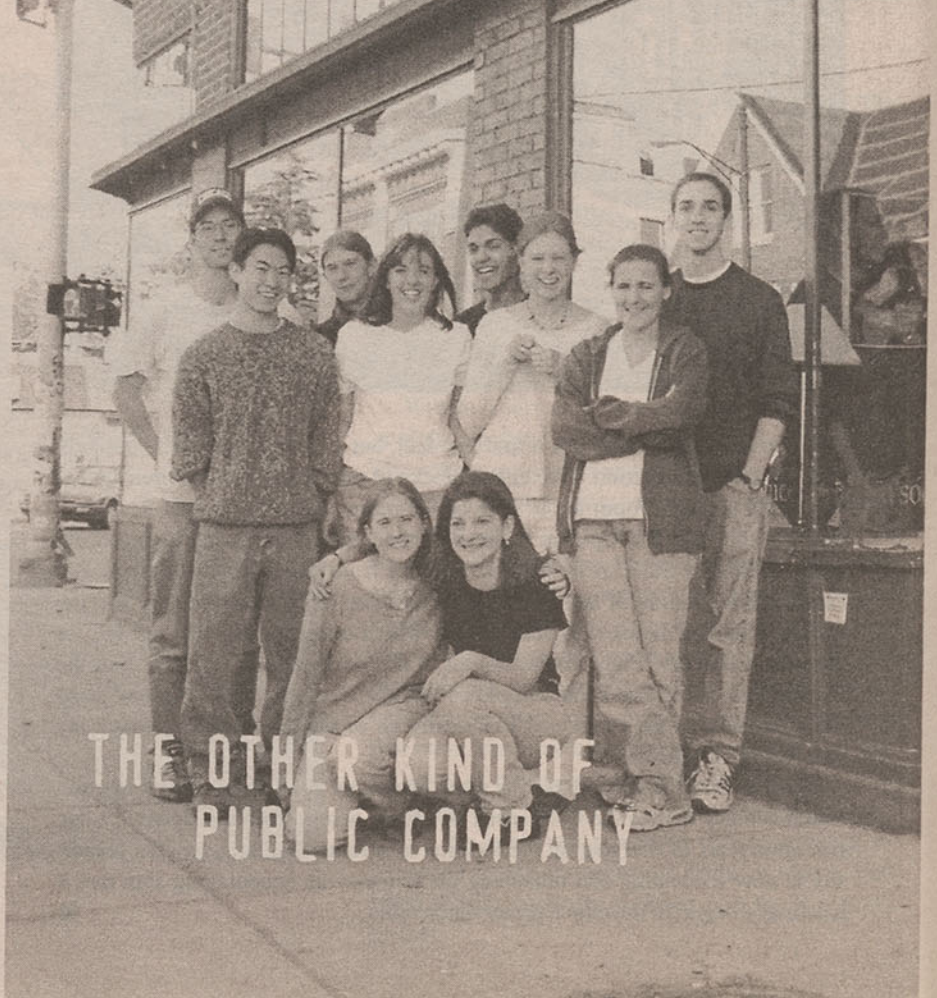

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JOHN COPLEY

On the face of it, spending $40 for beluga caviar is ridiculous. For that price, the Chop House gives you a three-quarter-ounce thimbleful—barely enough to feed a flea, even if you factor in the toast, capers, chives, and minced red onion that come on the side. But although my dinner companions initially demurred and said that it was too expensive and that I was silly to order it, our evening was made from the moment that caviar arrived on the table—not just because it was wonderful, which it was, but because it was so indulgent. We laughed, we drank a toast, and we nibbled on the rare Russian caviar, allowing that fine, briny taste to melt luxuriantly on our tongues.

Of course, no one needs $40 caviar, any more than anyone needs a $31 veal chop, or a $35 porterhouse steak that weighs a pound and a half. But the Chop House isn't about meeting your needs—any decent burger joint could do that—it's about spoiling you, and that it does, quite admirably. The food is splendid, the atmosphere is swell, and the service is thoughtful and well timed. This is, quite simply, a great night out.

The restaurant is elegantly clubby, with the moneyed, muscular look of a classic Chicago steak house: gleaming hardwood floors, lush leather banquettes, original oils in heavy gilt frames, crisp white linen, and lovely little table lamps aglow with complexion-flattering candle flame. The chairs are broad and comfortable. If you take things at a nice, leisurely pace—and at these prices, you should—chances are you'll be sitting in them for two or three hours.

The bill of fare is a spirited homage to midcentury swank, with dishes like oysters Rockefeller, lobster bisque, veal chops, and filet mignon. It's old-fashioned stuff, but the preparations are far from tired. Lamb chops, for example, come with a lovely rosemary-infused mint sauce rather than the clichéd mint jelly, and venison is sauced with a cranberry ginger demi-glaze.

Beluga aside, the first course is the most uneven part of an otherwise impeccable menu. The shrimp cocktail ($10.95) is first rate, with firm, meaty prawns and just the right amount of horseradish in the sauce, but crab Louie ($11.95), a retro classic featuring lump crabmeat on a bed of lettuce, was too dull for even the splash of crème de menthe in the Thousand Island–like dressing to save. The oysters Rockefeller ($7.95)—four oysters baked with spinach and cheese—were fabulously creamy and light, like swallowing a cloud, but my wild mushroom sauté ($7.95) was an undercooked horror, with a surfeit of nearly raw garlic.

After that, though, it's sheer pleasure all the way, from mellow French onion soup sweet with caramelized onion ($4.50) and a lovely lobster bisque ($4.95), both poured tableside, to a buttery-textured, fist-sized hunk of filet mignon ($31.95), ahi (yellowfin) tuna dusted with coriander and cracked black pepper and served sashimi-rare ($23.95), and an amazing steak au poivre in a lush brandied cream sauce ($27.95). This latter, according to chef Rick Nelson, is the restaurant's best-seller, and with good reason. It's superb.

The farm-raised venison chops ($31.95) are tender and mild, and the complex alchemy of cranberries, fresh ginger, thyme, and maple syrup in the accompanying demi-glaze does amazing things for the meat. This dish was so interesting and subtle that at first I was disappointed with the relative simplicity of the veal chops ($30.95) we'd also ordered. But their surprisingly robust flavor won me over by the third or fourth bite, and at the end of the meal, I couldn't have told you which I liked better.

Grilled asparagus with shaved parmesan ($6.95) makes a light, appealing side, but if you choose to go with the excellent cheddar potatoes ($5.95) instead, be forewarned: it's a massive portion the size—and, seemingly, the weight—of a brick. One order serves three or four. Really.

There were some minor service bobbles—one night our appetizers were delayed; on another, we almost got served the wrong soup—but by and large, this is some of the smoothest, finest service I've seen anywhere in town. The staff were right there when we needed them, and attending at a discreet distance when we didn't. More important, their demeanor is friendly without being overly familiar, and enthusiastic without being tiresome. In short, they're professionals.

If you're cynical, you might point out that of course I had a great time at the Chop House—how could you not have a great time when you're spending hundreds of dollars of someone else's money? But I have no doubt I'll go back there on my own dime, and when I do, I just might order that caviar, ridiculous indulgence though it may be. So it cost $40—on a crisp fall evening, it helped turn what would have been just a nice dinner out with friends into a night all of us will remember. And that, I think, is priceless.

The Chop House doesn't serve dessert; if you want a sweet, you have to adjourn to La Dolce Vita, next door. This isn't as awkward as it sounds; in fact, it's rather a nice ritual, which is why so many savvy hostesses show their guests into the living room after dinner. After two or three hours at the table, most people are ready for a change of scene.

Actually, La Dolce feels a lot like someone's living room—a beautifully appointed living room with an incredibly well-stocked bar, to be sure. It also suggests the lobby of a small, exclusive hotel, with pools of intimate lamplight, a gas fireplace, and overstuffed furniture gathered around coffee tables instead of conventional restaurant-style tables and chairs. The chairs are wonderfully comfy, though some are so low that they hinder a graceful exit. The low seating must play havoc on the waitstaff's knees, too—most of them squat down and take orders at eye level rather than tower over their customers.

Pastry chef Cheryl Hanewich offers a seasonal menu of classics ranging from a by-the-numbers Frangelico cheesecake ($6.50) to a marvelously imaginative maple-infused crème brûlée ($6.50) with a crisp, caramelized crust, light custard cen-

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ter, and accompanying fresh pineapple and kiwi. A mixed berry crisp ($6.95) was fresh and appealing under a scoop of vanilla bean ice cream. A chocolate torte ($6.50) was one of those over-the-top desserts that usually have names like Death by Chocolate—dark chocolate shell around mousse with chocolate ice cream and more chocolate drizzled on top—but unlike most of this breed, La Dolce's torte was extraordinarily well balanced. The surprise hit of the evening was homemade pumpkin ice cream with caramel sauce ($4.95)—simple, sweet, a true autumnal pleasure.

La Dolce Vita's other main attraction is its multipage drink menu, which includes "designer" martinis, coffee drinks, ports, sherries, madeiras, and an extensive selection of single-malt scotches. We tried two, an eighteen-year-old Macallan ($13.95) and a thirty-year-old Dalmore ($21.95). Both were wonderfully complex and smoky, but the Macallan, despite being the younger of the two, gets the edge for sheer silky smoothness. I also liked the name better. Shallow as that may be, it made me think of Scottish manor houses and a long, brisk walk on the moors.

I love a nice dry gin martini, but the two designer renditions I tried struck me as just plain silly. The chocolate martini ($7.95), featuring vodka, Godiva chocolate liqueur, and a chocolate "olive," tasted a lot like a Black Russian (vodka and Kahlua) to me, but a friend, not a Kahlua fan, thought it tasted more like chocolate cough syrup. A Cosmopolitan (vodka, triple sec, lime, and cranberry juice, $5.95) tasted sweet and girly, like something Barbie would order if her little plastic pursed lips would allow her to drink. It went down alarmingly easily, like pink lemonade.

I didn't visit La Dolce's well-appointed cigar bar downstairs save for passing through it on my way to the rest room, but I had time to make note of two things: that women are still very much a part of the cigar craze, and that the expensive ventilation system apparently works, because I wasn't overcome by the smell of smoke. It's an attractive, masculine-looking retreat lined with humidors and wine racks, its slate floors softened by Oriental rugs. There's a glass-enclosed dining room for private parties. It looks like a cozy place to dine, even if you don't smoke.

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La Dolce Vita
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Got a tip or a comment? Call 769–3175, ext. 364, or E-mail lauramcr@earthlink.net.

—Laura McReynolds

The Zingerman's® Times

VoL 2... No 12 Copyright @ DSE Inc. December 1999 Printed in Ann Arbor LAND OF A THOUSAND FLAVORS

Zing news nibbles

Rare Olio Nuovo *Seen at Deli*

Zingerman's year-end favorite product has recently been spotted at the Deli, in time to excite olive oil lovers for the New Year. Peppery, hearty and down-to-earth, the *olio nuovo* will appeal to those who favor flavors with gusto. Reservations for this unique oil from Italy are now being taken at Zingerman's Delicatessen, at 663.3354.

Holiday Fruit Baskets Discovered at Zingerman's Practical Produce

That most popular of holiday gifts, the fruit basket, is available at Zingerman's Practical Produce. Colorful, beautiful, and packed full with flavorful fresh fruit, they can be ordered by calling 665.2558.

Zingerman's Mail Order Hires Holiday Helpers

Zingerman's Mail Order is looking for a few more good people to help out during the holidays. Anyone interested in working in a fun and exciting environment with full-flavored benefits is asked to call Mail Order at 769.1625.

inside Zingerman's

Zingerman's Delicatessen	422 Detroit St. 663.DELI
Zingerman's Bakehouse	3711 Plaza Dr. 761.2095
Zingerman's Catering	422 Detroit St. 663.3400
Zingerman's mail order	422 Detroit St. 888.636.8162
ZingTRAIN	PO Box 1837 930.1919
Zingerman's practical produce	Kerrytown 665.2558

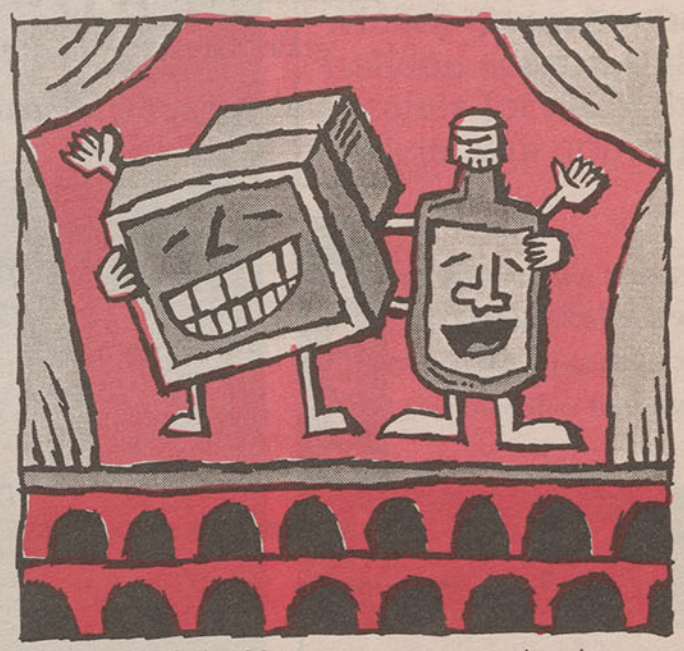
www.Zingermans.com

Website Wins Acclaim!

CYBERSPACE - Sources inside Zingerman's report that many happ-e-customers have been treating their cyber-tastebuds to a surf through Zingerman's website, **www.zingermans.com.** "I plan to do all my holiday shopping at Zingerman's—from my very own iMac!" exclaimed recent visitor, David Rosenbaum of Ames, IA.

The compliments have been jamming email lines. For example, e-customer, Bridget Foley writes: "I moved from Ann Arbor to New York City about two years ago, and the entire time I've been here I've been looking for a deli that was as good as yours is. No NYC deli compares to Zingerman's. I just wanted to say thanks for going online. This way, when I get a craving for the sourdough bread or the Magic Brownies, I don't have to pine—I can just go online!" Conrad Koehler adds: "You have done a super job in presenting a great deal of information which is very easily obtained. It is exceptionally easy to navigate throughout the many pages and find exactly what I want...Although the visit to Zingerman's website was enjoyable, it only made me anxious to visit 'the real thing' again. My wife and I plan to do just that."

Reports circulating on e-channels state that Zingerman's welcomes new visitors to surf on by @ www.Zingermans.com



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Becoming an Ann Arbor tradition, long-time locals have already been asking when this traditional German holiday cake will arrive. *The Zingerman's Times* is happy to report that stollen season is officially upon us.

One of the all-time best treats from the Bakehouse, Zingerman's stollen is made with lots of sweet butter, Bacardi rum, lemons, oranges, Michigan dried cherries, citron, currants, almonds, sultanas, real vanilla and more. Slice up a Bakehouse stollen and serve after dinner with coffee or tea.

Send a stollen to a food loving friend, call **Zingerman's Mail Order at 888.636.8162.**

Zingerman's Sourcream Coffeecakes prepare to rack up frequent flyer miles for the holidays.

Ann Arbor Institution Goes Nat'l

Sourcream Coffeecakes to Be Shipped Nationwide

While much of the world waits with wonder to see how the Y2K problem will play out, thousands of food lovers across the country will be savoring the rich flavors of Zingerman's Classic Sourcream Coffeecake. Trend watchers in Washington are reporting that sales of this superb sweet are expected to rise to previously unheard of levels. 1999 holiday sales are projected at 2,100 cakes, an increase of 50 percent over the previous year's figures, and a whopping 185 percent increase over 1997. Alan Greenspan's office was contacted to determine the reason for the cake's wild popularity, but was not available for comment. **Zingerman's Mail Order: 888.636.8162.**

zingerman's bread club gives flavorfully

Holiday shoppers looking for a gift that really does "keep on giving," are finding what they're looking for in the Zingerman's Mail Order Catalog for Food Lovers. Page five of the catalog features Zingerman's Bread Club, a program designed to bring Zingerman's traditionally-made, hearth-baked breads to club members on a three- or six-month long basis. Senders can choose to give their loved ones a one, two or three loaf membership. "I love it," stated Bread Club member, Jennifer Thompson. "Everytime I receive a delicious Zingerman's bread in the mail, I think of my brother who sent it to me." Interested bread lovers can call **Zingerman's Mail Order at 888.636.8162,** or order online at **www.zingermans.com.**

Zingerman's Mexican Vanilla discovered in this month's issue of *Saveur* magazine!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS, EVERYONE!

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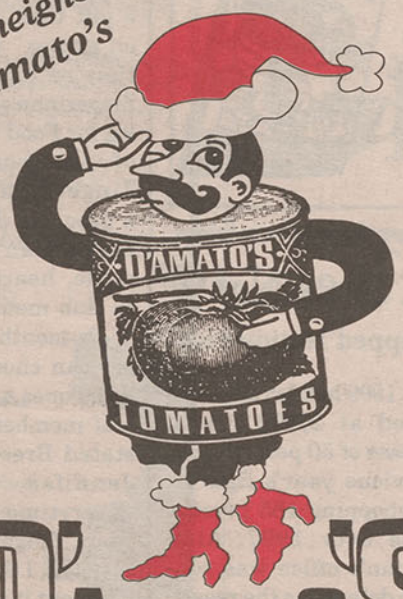

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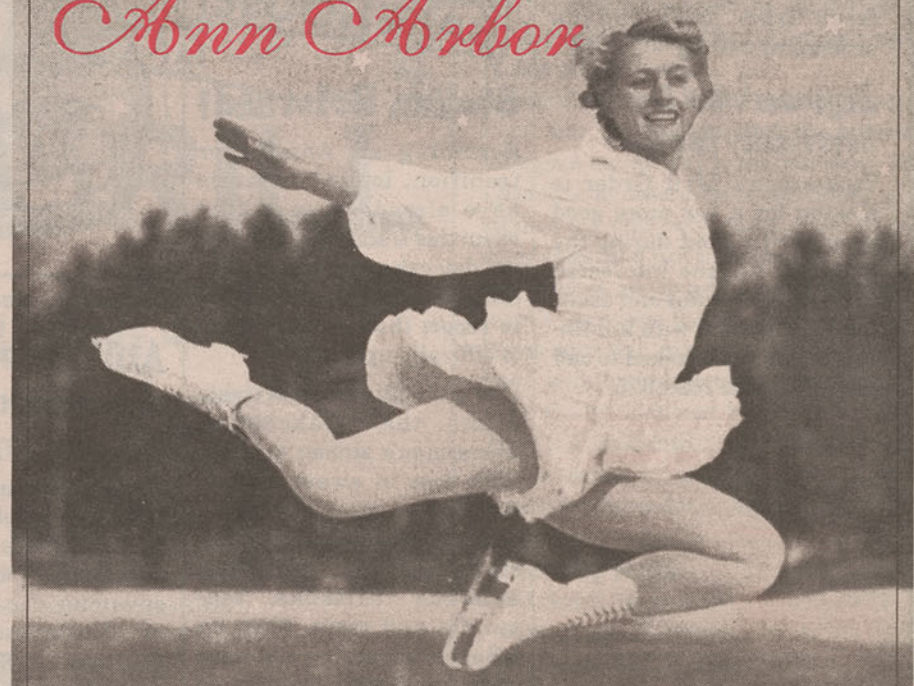

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See pages 76 and 77 for more downtown information!

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J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Paul and Diane Nielsen at the Maiden Lane greenhouse. "This sale came so fast, we're still reeling," says Diane. They're staying on as employees till year's end.

Farewell to a family business

The Nielsens sell out

After sixty years and three generations of family ownership, Paul and Diane Nielsen are selling **Nielsen's Flower Shop and Greenhouses** on Maiden Lane to a Toledo flower company, and the 3.2 acres of family land on which the business stands to Novi real estate developers. "This has always been a family business," explains Diane, "but it's gotten to the point where Paul and I are the only members still involved. None of our kids are interested, and none of Paul's siblings are interested. We're ready for a change."

The Nielsens had received many offers over the years for their land, but Creative Land Design's was the first one that felt right. "We really wanted to see residential development here," Diane says. "We wanted the land to be developed in a way that would improve the community." Creative Land Design's Crosswinds Communities division plans to build sixty-two two- and three-bedroom townhouses on the site, with construction to begin next spring.

Nielsen's was founded by Paul's grandfather, Fred Nielsen, a Danish immigrant who was hired to manage the greenhouse in 1934 and bought it in 1938. Nielsen put his sons to work right alongside him in what was then a huge operation. A history written by Paul Nielsen's uncle, also named Paul, recalls how at Christmas the greenhouse was packed with 15,000 poinsettias, and at Easter with over 12,000 lilies.

During the Great Depression the greenhouse contained a bountiful vegetable garden grown from seed. During World War II, Nielsen even tried to raise chickens, but had to abandon the idea when the white Leghorns inexplicably turned cannibalistic and began pecking each other to death.

Fred's sons Jack and Ben took over the business after he died in 1959. Paul, Jack's son, bought the company in the 1970s and has run it ever since.

Once they'd accepted Creative Land Design's offer, Paul and Diane were toying with the idea of moving the flower business to another location when they met Fred Moore, co-owner of **Ken's Flowers,** a small Toledo chain that had long wanted to enter the Ann Arbor market. "Fred had brought a friend to the VA hospital, and had come down Maiden Lane and stopped in to see Paul afterwards," Diane says. An offer came quickly, and the Nielsens accepted. "This sale came so fast, we're still reeling," she laughs.

Nielsen's and Ken's seemed like a good match to Moore and his partner, Ken Cappelletty. "Their business philosophy is compatible with ours," Cappelletty says. "We're a service-oriented business, and we bend over backwards to take care of people."

Cappelletty got into the flower business on a whim. He'd been studying education in college and took a year off to work in California, but when he got off the plane, the job he'd lined up had fallen through. He had worked in a Toledo nursery in high school, so he found a job working for a Japanese nursery. "I was the only Caucasian on the staff," he remembers. "I watched them fairly closely, and I learned a lot about flowers."

In fact, he learned so much that when he came back home to Ohio he abandoned his college plans and opened Ken's Flowers instead. Two years later, Moore, an accountant, joined up, and together the two men built the business into a six-store chain.

Cappelletty and Moore are planning on keeping the Nielsen's name, but they'll be adding an extensive line of gourmet food baskets, planters, silk flowers, and plants, plus gift items like figurines, which they feature in their Ohio shops. "These days, you can't just live on the sale of flowers alone," Cappelletty comments.

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Nielsen's new owners will have to move the business in February, when the land deal is scheduled to close. Cappelletty says they'd like to stay in the same part of town.

Paul and Diane are staying on as employees until the end of the year. Big changes are coming for both of them: "Paul says the last employer he had was the U.S. Navy," Diane laughs.

Nielsen's Flowers, 1021 Maiden Lane, 994–6112. Probable hours: Mon.–Fri. 8 a.m.–8 p.m., Sat. 8 a.m.–7 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Dubplate Pressure is deejay heaven

Todd Osborn's new place

For about nine months, WCBN disc jockey Todd Osborn had a record store called Dubplate Pressure in the basement of East Liberty Plaza below Afternoon Delight, but the hours were so limited that many never knew it was there. The tiny shop, which specialized in hip-hop, jungle, and other dance music, was open three days a week. Osborn says the hours were a continual source of frustration even to his regular customers. "They'd say, 'I was here Monday, but you weren't,'" he says, "or 'I can only come on Tuesday nights—why aren't you open?'"

When Osborn finally closed up shop, it wasn't for lack of business—for fans of hard-to-find underground dance music, Dubplate Pressure was just about the only game in town—but because of landlord problems. "Every time it rained, the store would flood," Osborn says. "I gave them about ten chances, but they never fixed it. So I finally left."

Now Osborn, who had been juggling his part-time store with deejaying and record producing, has the chance to revive his dance-music-store concept full time. Shortly after he closed his store, he was hired by Jim Leonard to open and manage **SKR Dubplate Pressure** next to Leonard's SKR Blues & Jazz and SKR Pop & Rock on East Liberty. The store was scheduled to open in November in the old Schoolkids' Records Annex space.

When Osborn's store was still open, mutual friends told Leonard he should check its music—and Osborn—out. Leonard didn't know much about dance music, but he borrowed a stack of albums and was surprised at what he found. "Don't look for harmonic and melodic interest here. It's about texture and rhythm," he says. "But the textures are really interesting. Todd really knows his stuff, and he loves it deeply. And that's what these stores are fundamentally about: we know our stuff, and we love it."

SKR Dubplate Pressure—named for the master pressing in vinyl record production—will carry not only hip-hop and jungle but also techno, house, tribal, and trance, all dance music categories distinguished in part by their rhythm signatures and also by patterns of sound. House, for instance, averages a steady 112–136 beats per minute, manufactured by rhythm machines. Hip-hop has a slower, 90–120 rhythm, with lots of bass and snare.

Dance music is usually released on vinyl because it's cheaper to produce that way, and because it typically makes its way to the general public via the club deejays who spin it. Osborn says his clientele is divided between deejays who come in and buy everything that was released in the past week, and club customers who've heard a tune and taken a fancy to it. "They won't know the name or the artist. They'll just, like, come in and try to sing it," he says. Amazingly, Osborn is usually able to figure out which record they want.

The staff includes WCBN deejay Carlos Souffront (whose techno show was recently lauded in *Rolling Stone* magazine) and Tadd Mullinix, a dance music producer and co-owner, with Osborn, of the Rewind Records and Forward Records labels. "I didn't just hire anybody who came in wanting a job," Osborn says. "I hired people who've been doing this for a long time."

The only problem, adds Leonard, is figuring out how to staff the place on Friday and Saturday nights. "I don't know who's going to work in the store," he jokes, "because they're all deejays, and they all work regular gigs."

SKR Dubplate Pressure, 537 East Liberty, 997–9598. Mon.–Thurs. 9 a.m.–9 p.m., Fri. & Sat. 9 a.m.–10 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.–7 p.m.

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Todd Osborn and Jim Leonard at the new SKR Dubplate Pressure.

Unsquishing Jewel Heart

Buddhist retail gets bigger

Jewel Heart is consolidating its Ann Street Buddhist temple and its Ashley Street retail shop and offices into a single location at 205–207 East Washington. "The office was all squished, the store was squished, and our temple was squished," says Ani Ngawang Chodon, who manages the retail shop. "We're moving because we simply ran out of room."

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

The nun as retailer: Ani Ngawang Chodon.

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"There used to be seven stores like this downtown," recalls Jack Fagin of Ann Arbor Clothing. "And we're the last ones." He's closing up shop on December 31.

The new location was originally slated to become part of Wallaby's brewpub, but that deal fell through when the condo developers who were going to buy the top two floors were scared off by the property's condition. Undaunted by the structural deficits, the Jewel Heart people bought the building. "The roof was cracked in on top, which we had to fix, and there's a tremendous amount of restoration work that has to be done," acknowledges Chodon. "But it's a lovely building."

Chodon is looking forward to having more space for her inventory of jewelry, books, and decorative items. She'll be bringing in custom-designed jewelry from Nepalese silversmiths using stones from India, Tibetan carpets and home accents, more Buddhist books as well as books on Western philosophers, and materials for Buddhist practices like wax-cast copper images and statues. "Gelek Rinpoche, our director, is very concerned that Buddhist practitioners have materials that are not only correct—which are not all that easy to find—but are more reasonably priced," she says.

She also hopes to take a trip to Indonesia in the spring, where she wants to design meditation furniture and clothing, like traditional Tibetan shirts with stand-up collars and fold-over fronts and matching loose-fitting pants with drawstring waists. In the East, Chodon explains, there's no need for special meditation clothing, because the everyday clothes people wear are already loose and comfortable. "Try sitting on the floor and crossing your legs in a little skinny skirt or a tight pair of jeans," Chodon laughs. "It's almost impossible."

Chodon, more familiarly known as Chola (pronounced "chur-la," it means "Sister"), is a Buddhist nun who started managing the store in July. Although she's been a practicing Buddhist and retailer for twenty-six years, it wasn't until 1993 that she decided to make the stronger commitment of becoming a nun. Her vows included celibacy, no singing, no dancing, no jewelry, and no perfume. "It wastes our time," Chodon says simply.

Running the store, she says, does not conflict with her vows—especially since it's a Buddhist-oriented business. "If I lived in India or Nepal, I would live in a nunnery, but here, there are no nunneries or support for monks or nuns, so we have to have jobs," she says. "We don't take vows of poverty—but it usually works out that way!"

Jewel Heart, 205–207 East Washington, 994–3387. Probable hours: Mon.–Fri. 10 a.m.–6 p.m. (Tues. & Fri. till 7 p.m.), Sat. 10 a.m.–8 p.m.

The passing of Ann Arbor Clothing

An era ends on Main Street

Ann Arbor Clothing is scheduled to close December 31, marking not just the end of owner Jack Fagin's sixty-six-year career, but the end of an era for downtown Ann Arbor: a time when Kline's and Goodyear's department stores bracketed Main Street, and retail—particularly clothing—was king. "There used to be seven stores like this downtown," Fagin says regretfully. "And we're the last ones."

Fagin's retail career started in 1933, when he got a job working for a uniform shop in Chicago. By 1937, he'd saved $1,300—"In 1937, that was a lot of money," he winks—and used it to open his own shoe store in Kentucky. In 1942, he came north to Toledo to help a friend close up and sell his men's shoe store. The man who bought the balance of the stock,

Joseph Sommers, owned Ann Arbor Clothing. Fagin went to work for him. In 1963, Fagin bought the business and the building in which it was housed.

Fagin says he survived for fifty-six years on Main Street by "watching my business, knowing who the customer is, and buying what the customers want." The store was known for its smart, conservative menswear and its broad range of sizes—the store carried trouser waists from thirty-four to eighty inches, although Fagin says the largest pair he ever sold was a size 76. "When that guy walked in here, the walls were shaking," he jokes.

In 1996 Fagin sold the building to local architect Carl Luckenbach. "I figured I'm not going to live forever, and if something happens to me, my wife isn't going to have to worry about getting rid of the building," Fagin says. Luckenbach converted the upper floors into a sleek loft-style residence, creating a case study in downtown's changing character: upstairs, the ultimate in urban chic; downstairs, a time capsule of prewar retail.

Fagin says he might have retired several years ago if not for longtime employee Marty Clark, who took a great deal of the pressure off him. Finally, this year, he decided to listen to his wife, Betty, who wanted him to spend more time at home. The eighty-four-year-old Fagin isn't sure what he's going to do next, but he doesn't plan to sit around. "I've been working six, seven days a week all my life," he says. "I'll have to do some kind of work, even if it's something that doesn't pay, just to give me a reason to get up in the morning."

Is it even possible to start a business like Ann Arbor Clothing on Main Street today? Fagin thinks not. "First of all, it takes a lot of money," he says. "And if a person has that kind of money, he doesn't need to go into business. And downtown, there's just too many restaurants. It takes merchants to bring down the people."

Luckenbach agrees. He's talking with several prospective tenants but doesn't have anyone signed up yet. One thing's for sure: it will definitely be retail. "I have no interest in living over a restaurant," Luckenbach says firmly.

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Two new tile shops

And an expanded ASAP Source

Two similarly named marble and tile retailers have opened within just a few miles of each other: **Ann Arbor Tile & Marble Center,** off Jackson Road, and **Ann Arbor Marble and Ceramic Tile,** on South Industrial. The two stores have more in common than their names and inventory: both are run by men whose families have been working with stone for generations.

Walter Rose, of Ann Arbor Tile & Marble, comes from a family of stonemasons who immigrated to North America in the late seventeenth century. Rose himself is the longtime owner of Rose Tile and Masonry, an installation business, and had been thinking about opening his own warehouse and retail location ever since Detroit-area road construction began to make it hard to get materials from his suppliers.

In addition to brick, concrete block, and ceramic tile, Rose carries 125 different kinds of granite and 125 different kinds of marble from all over the world. The most exotic marbles—going for as much as $70 to $100 a square foot—come from Brazil, like one called *juperana crème mara,* which is a lovely creamed-coffee color speckled with black and white grains. "It looks like a sand castle—it's almost art in and of itself," Rose says.

The average job, including fabrication and installation, costs about $7,000 to $12,000, but as Rose points out, you have to do it only once. "Marble and granite last," he says. "You can even stick granite in the oven—it's one of the toughest materials on the planet."

Ann Arbor Tile & Marble Center, 221 Dino Drive, Suite D, 424–1100. Mon.–Fri. 9 a.m.–6 p.m.

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Giuseppe Craparotta grew up in Rome, where his father was—and still is—a sculptor and a restoration specialist. "Across the street from my house there used to be a quarry, and I used to play there," he says. "It sounds strange now, but for me it was like normal. I grew up with marble."

Craparotta was running a marble shop in Novi when he met Biagio Guarascio, a tile specialist who comes from a family of stonemasons. The two men clicked instantly, and started talking about going into business together. The answer: Ann Arbor Marble and Ceramic Tile, which they hoped to have open by mid-November.

About half of the store's materials come from Italy and the other half from Brazil. It's sophisticated stuff, like an enormous slab of brilliant blue granite with fine black veins. Most of it is destined to become someone's kitchen countertop or fireplace, but the store also fabricates stone for thresholds, windowsills, and floors. Craparotta says that's where his lifetime of experience working with marble really comes into play. "People ask a lot of questions the average salesman can't answer, because if you're not doing it yourself, you just don't know," he says. "Because we know what we're doing, we can direct people, help them develop certain ideas."

Craparotta points out that his stone is not only expensive but very heavy. "Granite is forty pounds per square foot, and a slab is forty-five square feet," Craparotta says. "You'd better be careful, because if you drop it, that's it. Which happens. You lose one or two slabs a year, and you're talking thousands of dollars."

Ann Arbor Marble and Ceramic Tile, 2280 South Industrial, 669–2828. Probable hours: Mon.–Sat. 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

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Ann Arbor Marble and Ceramic Tile shares space in what was once Wedemeyer

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Electronic Supply with Debbie and Edsel Roberts's **ASAP Source.** When ASAP Source opened four years ago, it was a relatively modest, 2,000-square-foot shop selling aluminum, steel, and plastic materials (hence the name) primarily to contractors and repair people. Since then, business has boomed so much that the Robertses bought the building and expanded the shop to 14,000 square feet.

Remodelers come in with special client requests: a copper closet rod, for example, or a molded plastic stairway railing. Jewelry designers and sculptors stop by for sheet metal. Hobbyists look for interesting odds and ends. Home owners buy precut shelving. "We even had a Brownie troop leader come in and buy a bunch of tubing," Debbie says. "We cut them to different lengths for her and drilled holes in them, so she could make wind chimes with her troop."

As ASAP Source continues to find new customers, Debbie keeps adding Yellow Pages listings. "We're listed under Art Supplies now," she says. "It was a market that never entered our mind."

ASAP Source, 2284 South Industrial, 213–2727. Mon.–Fri. 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

Assorted Notes

A couple of months ago, the Observer asked readers what they wanted to see in the former Arriba space. Responses ranged from a kosher deli to a dance club, but the majority of the suggestions were either to do a more casual Tex-Mex place, or to revive Maude's.

Local restaurateur Perry Porikos says, why not both? He and a group of investors have leased the Arriba space from Mainstreet Ventures and in mid-November opened what Porikos calls "a combination of Maude's and Mexican: ribs, chicken, steaks, and Tex-Mex."

The new restaurant, **Papa Chulo's,** keeps Arriba's decor pretty much intact. "I love the interior. They did a superb job," Porikos says—though he did decide to tone down the colors a bit and give the place a more casual feel by adding neon signage, decorative stacks of beer cases, and high-topped tables and TV sets in the bar. In keeping with the more casual approach, entrees are served family-style from communal platters and are priced, when practical, by the pound.

Papa Chulo's—Porikos says the name comes from an affectionate term that loosely translates to "wise old man"—is the brainchild of partner Brian Hussey, who used to manage Mexican-themed restaurants for the Pappas chain out of Houston. "He's a little Greek, too, because he worked for one of the biggest Greek families in Texas," Porikos jokes.

Porikos and a rotating group of partners, including the Panos family, own a host of other restaurants in town: Jonathan's Family Restaurant, the Big Sky Diner in Ypsilanti, Dexter's Pub, the Brown Jug, and Smokehouse Blues. The group is rumored to be working on another restaurant concept to replace the Panoses' former tenant, Jimmy's Double A Bar & Grill—but so far, Porikos isn't talking. "Soon," he says enigmatically.

Papa Chulo's, 314 South Fourth Avenue, 827–2444. Mon.–Thurs. 4–10 p.m., Fri. & Sat. 4–11 p.m., Sun. 4–9 p.m. (with plans to open for lunch soon).

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More Tex-Mex is turning up on the north side of town, where Don Jorgensen has opened a second **Burro** in the Plymouth-Green shopping center. Ever since Jorgensen bought the original Burro on East William from founder Tony Brown in 1995, he's been looking for another location—and the north side of town seemed like a great fit. "This stretch of Plymouth Road has grown so much over the past five years, but there really wasn't any restaurant growth," he says. "There isn't even a Taco Bell for competition."

Taco Bell and the Burro might both sell burritos, but there the similarity ends. The Burro's veggie burrito, for instance, is a generous twelve-incher plump with seasoned pinto beans, zucchini, red bell peppers, fresh cilantro, and onions, with optional add-ons like rice, black olives, and fresh chilies. It's almost unfair to compare it with Taco Bell's flat, flaccid sandwiches. The veggie burrito is a top-seller on campus, but Jorgensen says north-side customers seem to prefer the beef version. With twice the space of the William Street location and ample free parking, the Plymouth Road store also does a brisk carryout business.

Jorgensen, who has a marketing background, has a vision: three or four Burro variations, including the campus and strip mall versions and a downtown rendition, where he'd like to introduce a breakfast menu. After that, "the next thing would be to start setting up franchise or licensee agreements," he says. "But that's in the future. Right now, I'm taking things one step at a time."

The Burro, 3674 Plymouth Road, 623–0109. Mon.–Sat. 11 a.m.–9 p.m. Closed Sun.

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After months of rumors, it's finally official: **Starbucks Coffee** is moving into the old Gratzi Cafe space at Liberty and State. Tom Ungrodt, whose family's gift-store supply company, Ideation, owns the building, says the Seattle-based coffeehouse chain is taking all of the first level and half of the lower level, 5,000 square feet in all.

Starbucks was far from the only contender for the space—the Ungrodts were talking to the Gap, Eastern Mountain Sports, and a number of different people who wanted to open restaurants—but it was the only prospective tenant interested in taking over so much of the building. Ungrodt says he just wishes the deal could have been put together more quickly. "What made this Starbucks thing so diffi-

cult is that their attorney was in Toronto, their architect was in Chicago, their building company was in Minneapolis, and their headquarters is in Seattle," Ungrodt notes. "Everything took a really long time to negotiate."

Starbucks Coffee. Address, phone, and hours unavailable at press time.

Think **Meijer**, and most people think inexpensive housewares, bags of mulch, cheap sneakers, and industrial-size packages of disposable diapers. Most people do not think cappuccino and sushi.

Nonetheless, that's just what you could be enjoying next time you head out to the Ann Arbor–Saline Road Meijer, now in the final stages of an expansion that took the "hypermarket" from 197,000 to 235,000 square feet and boosted the sophistication quotient significantly in the process. At the south end of the store, a revamped indoor garden center sells Mylar balloons, silk flower arrangements, and fresh blooms by the stem. At the opposite end of the building, the grocery section is bigger, brighter, and considerably more upscale, with a coffee counter that serves cappuccino and latte; an exposed kitchen where white-hatted chefs bake doughnuts, breads, and pastries in full view of customers; a pizza parlor; and, yes, a sushi bar.

A similar expansion is under way at the Carpenter Road location. And Meijer plans to add a third area store, on a fifty-two-acre parcel near the corner of Park and Zeeb Roads, sometime in the next year. That one could be even more dramatic than the revamped locations: according to press accounts, the west Michigan chain's newest outposts are designed to resemble a village square, complete with "streets" and street lamps.

Meijer, 3145 Ann Arbor–Saline Road, 769–7800; 3825 Carpenter Road, 973–1200. Open twenty-four hours daily.

Renee and Michael Makdisi have opened **Maple Miller Meats** in the old Kowalski Kowality Market space at Maple Miller Plaza. "My husband's been a butcher forever, and he's really, really good at it," says Renee. "I really wanted him to open his own shop."

The Makdisis heard about the Kowalski space last spring. After asking around, they were encouraged to hear from the landlord and Kowalski's former employees that the store had foundered because of lack of help, not lack of customers. Still, business has been slower to take off than Renee would like, in part, she thinks, because Kowalski's customers had plenty of time to find other places to shop in the ten months since the store closed. "I'm trying to look on the good side," she says. "I have the time to meet each customer and really talk to them and get to know them. I love the neighborhood people who come in and visit."

The Makdisis have small produce, grocery, and dairy sections as well as the meat and fish counters, where Michael specializes in Black Angus beef, Amish chicken and turkey, and ready-to-cook items like stuffed pork chops and stuffed Cornish hens. As business grows, he expects to do more gourmet entrees and custom orders. "He's worked from the inner city to Grosse Pointe to the Oakland County suburbs," Renee says. "He's worked with different ethnic groups, different social backgrounds, so he's familiar with just about anything anyone could want."

Renee has already started stocking several items suggested by customers, including baby spinach and soft, old-fashioned pretzels on Saturdays. The Makdisis also carry Kowalski brand deli meats for customers who are used to coming in to buy them there. Because of this, and because Renee hired two former Kowalski employees, some customers are a little confused about the ownership of the shop. "We're not Kowalski, we're us," Renee says firmly. "We're a new family in town."

Maple Miller Meats, 1516 North Maple, 827–0400. Mon.–Sat. 9 a.m.–6:30 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

It's hard to imagine today, when we open our mailboxes only to risk being buried under a small avalanche of catalogs, but back in 1934, when brothers Harry and David Holmes got the idea to sell their family's fresh pears by mail, the concept of specialty mail order was practically revolutionary. But the brothers were desperate, and in this case, desperation bred invention. The Great Depression had eroded the family's export business, and the Holmes boys had an orchard full of ripening pears that they needed to move.

Assuming no one would buy perishable Christmas gifts sight unseen, they packed up some samples and hit the road, politely forcing a taste of their fruit on every wealthy VIP they could think of. The brothers took over 400 orders between them, and those orders, when filled, began to generate repeat orders for the next year. The Harry and David mail order business was born.

Sixty-odd years later, the company still sells by mail order but also has more than ninety retail locations. The newest **Harry and David** store opened in November in the Jacobson's wing at Briarwood. The store sells fresh fruit from a walk-in cooler as well as dried and glacéed fruit, nuts, smoked salmon and turkey, cheeses, sauces, and sweets. There are some home accessories and accents, too, including holiday decorations, teakettles, tableware, and linens. One offering sure to be popular for the holidays: a three-layer cheese wheel featuring extra-sharp cheddar, port wine cheddar, and Swiss, encrusted with a layer of crushed almonds.

Harry and David, Briarwood, 623–0173. Mon.–Sat. 10 a.m.–9 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.–6 p.m.

By the Pound owner Glenn Bourland has taken what was once a modest selection of about fifteen teas and expanded it into a dedicated tea department, complete with teapots, infusers, strainers, caddies,

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and over sixty varieties of black, green, and flavored teas. "Ever since Smiling Cat Tea Merchants closed [in Kerrytown], there's really been no place in town to get a wide variety of tea," he says. "I decided to take up the slack."

Like everything else in the store, Bourland's tea is priced by weight, from $9.99 a pound for a domestic black tea to as much as $50 a pound for a fine Darjeeling. That sounds outrageous until you consider that a pound of tea makes something like 300 cups. Most people, says Bourland, buy an ounce or two at a time.

Why are some teas relatively cheap and others expensive? Quality varies widely, depending on the species, the elevation of the bush on which the tea is grown, how the leaf was plucked, and even the time of day the tea was harvested! "The buyers I use have to try out several pickings to choose the one they want, and then they'll offer that one for the year, from that particular estate," Bourland says.

Bourland and his assistant, the very British Michael Leech, have put together an eminently browsable selection of loose and bagged tea, including toasty-flavored English Breakfast; robust Assam (the base of Irish Breakfast, among others); Russian Caravan; light, delicate Darjeeling from India; Chinese oolong; and Earl Grey, a blend of black teas whose distinctive, floral sweetness comes from bergamot oil. By the Pound also stocks several varieties of Asian green tea. Once an exotic, not to say acquired taste, it's newly popular since recent studies linked green-tea drinking to reduced cancer risk.

By the Pound, 617 South Main in South Main Market, 665–8884. Mon.–Fri. 8 a.m.–8 p.m., Sat. 8 a.m.–7 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.–6 p.m.

Tea is also a specialty at **Luminosity,** an eclectic art gallery and tea retailer that has taken over the old Maison Edwards space in Nickels Arcade. Owner Ingrid Michot has turned what was once an amiably cluttered shop into an airy, fresh-looking space with clean white walls and contemporary track and accent lighting. The front part of the shop is the gallery space; at the back of the room, there's a sleek counter where customers can buy packaged teas and coffees. The tea selection is small but appealing; it includes Genmaicha, Gyokuro, jasmine, lapsang souchong, oolong, and Darjeeling.

Since its September opening, the shop has featured pastels and oils by local photographer and artist John Shultz. Other interesting items include beautiful candles, handblown glass, designer greeting cards, and hand-painted bowls and stemware. There are several lovely and unusual lamps, too, including one that looks like a gently glowing pear.

Luminosity, 9 Nickels Arcade, 761–7459. Mon.–Fri. 10 a.m.–6 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.–5 p.m. Closed Sun.

After sixteen years, the twelve artists who collectively own the **Clay Gallery** are moving from Nickels Arcade to the former Style Revival space at 110 East Liberty. "We're getting double the amount of space, and there are more galleries down there," says gallery director Shirley Knudsvig. To take advantage of downtown's evening foot traffic, the new location will stay open as late as 10 p.m.

The twelve members of the collective don't just create the jewelry, sculptures, and decorative ceramics that make up the shop's inventory. They also share in the duties of running the shop: staffing the floor, creating the window displays, keeping the books. They'll have their hands full in December, when they'll be running both the new and the old location until the Nickels Arcade lease is up at the end of the month. "It's going to be a hectic Christmas," says Knudsvig.

The Clay Gallery, 110 East Liberty, 662–7927. Probable hours: Mon.–Thurs. 10 a.m.–7 p.m., Fri.–Sat. 10 a.m.–10 p.m., Sun. noon–5 p.m.

In the Works

The old Kroger space on Washtenaw didn't go begging long: **Office Depot** is planning to open there sometime this winter. With an OfficeMax at Arborland and Staples just down Carpenter, that will make three office superstores less than a mile apart. Meanwhile, Arborland renovation is nearly complete—upcoming openings include gourmet grocery **Hiller's Market;** a **Petco** pet supply store; **Michael's Arts & Crafts,** which is moving from Oak Valley Centre on Ann Arbor–Saline Road; and **Frameology Custom Framing & Fine Art,** also moving from its present location at Fountain Square in Ypsilanti.

Ann Arbor Toyota is on the move, too, from its current spot on Washtenaw in Ypsilanti to a new dealership under construction on Jackson Road.

Coming next spring: a more upscale, sophisticated **Jefferson Market** (across from Bach School), under the direction of new owners Matt Banks and his wife, Jean Henry.

Closings

Sears closed thirty-three of its 307 **NTB National Tire & Battery** stores, including the Washtenaw location in Ann Arbor, in September because of poor sales. NTB built what appeared to be a fine imitation of Ann Arbor–based Discount Tire, but with one important omission: there were hardly any customers. NTB warranties will be honored at the Briarwood Sears Auto Center and any other Sears Auto Center location.

Follow-Up

Five years ago this month, the Changes column reported sixteen business openings. Nine of them are still open, including **Mancino's Pizza & Grinders** on Jackson Road; **Maternité by Mothers Work** and **Bentley's Luggage & Gifts,** both at Briarwood; **Magic Memories** flower and gift shop in the Courtyard Shops; **Cooker Bar and Grille** on Commonwealth Boulevard; **HoneyBaked Ham** on Washtenaw; **Basim's State Street Deli and Sundry Shop** inside the 777 office building on Eisenhower Parkway; and **Bargain Books** on South State. **Steve & Barry's University Sportswear** is still around, too—and has since expanded across State Street to the former Borders Books space.

Four businesses didn't make it. The angel trend is still going strong, but it wasn't enough to sustain the **Angel Treasures** gift boutique in the Courtyard Shops. **Midwest Piano Distributors** on Varsity Drive has closed, as has **J's Place,** a modest little deli on Carpenter Road. **Golf AnyTime,** a Carpenter Road store that featured a computer-simulated golf course, also has closed.

Three other bygone businesses have been replaced by new ones with similar concepts—enough to qualify as survival under our generous five-year standard. **Mike Robson's Pro Shop** inside the inflatable Arbor Dome driving range has been replaced by **Dean's Golf Outlet. Tater's,** the food concession inside Bel-Mark Lanes, was reborn as the **All Star Grille,** and **Lindsay's,** the restaurant then just opening inside the Bird of Paradise, is now **A Taste of the Islands,** whose eclectic menu ranges from steaks and pasta to the late-night crowd pleaser, Tex-Mex.

December 1994 survival rate: 75 percent

❧❧❧

One year ago this month, Marketplace Changes featured lots and lots of new owners and expansions, but only three new businesses—seven if you count Steve Bergman's three **Schoolkids' Records in Exile** locations and Jim Leonard's **SKR Pop & Rock** and **SKR Blues & Jazz** stores separately. Most of the music shops are still open, although Bergman's State Street branch has moved from its original location inside Elmo's Supershirts to a new spot inside Bivouac, and his outlet in Oz's Music Environment on Packard has since closed.

Also still open: **Da Vinci's Pizza,** on Ann Street, and the **Lonely Hearts Club** on Washington, which was written about in December but didn't actually open until six months later.

December 1998 survival rate: 86 percent

❧❧❧

Got a retail or restaurant change? Leave voice mail at 769–3175, ext. 364, or send E-mail to lauramcr@earthlink.net.

—Laura McReynolds

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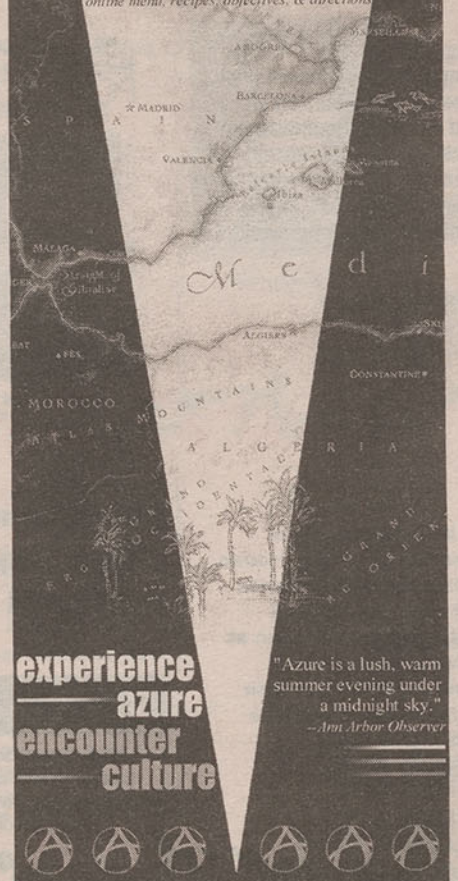

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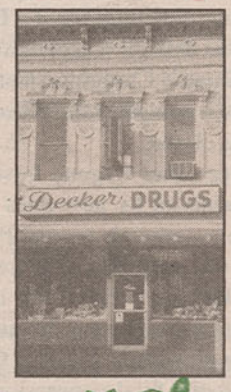

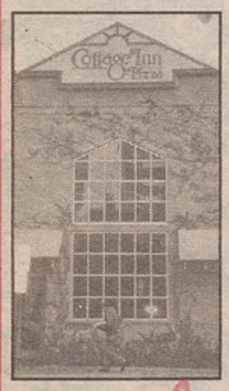

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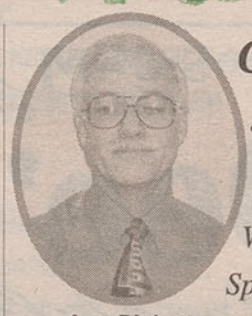

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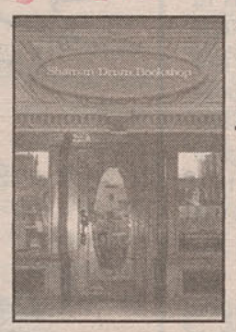

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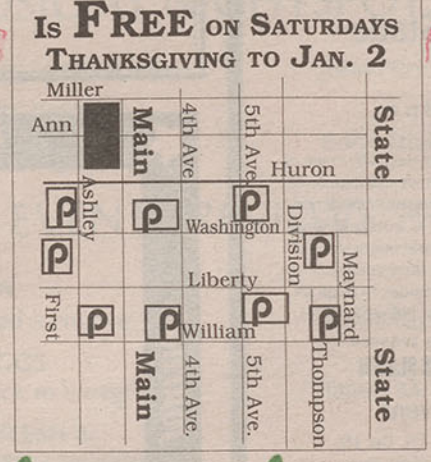

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November 26-December 17, 1999
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Holiday Nights: Various performers singing and merrymaking every Friday night 7-9. Enjoy the ambiance of Main Street Area with the Eclectics Swing Era Band and the Arbor Consort. Bring a new toy to the SOS Community Toy Chest for needy children.

Friday December 3, 1999
Midnight Madness when stores are open late with lots of holiday bargains and Mr. & Mrs. Claus will hand out candy for all young-at-heart strollers. Carriage rides to and from S. University to State St. Valet parking at 350 S. Main St.

Sunday December 5, 1999
12th Annual Children's Holiday Parade: Children of all ages meet at noon in front of the downtown Post Office *(costumes encouraged)*. Complimentary Family Holiday Film at the Michigan Theatre at 3:00 pm.

UMS December Events

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The Harlem Nutcracker

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UMS Choral Union
Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra
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Tamara Matthews, soprano
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Glenn Siebert, tenor
Andrew Wentzel, bass-baritone

Ring in the sounds of the Christmas season with the UMS Choral Union, performing Handel's beloved oratorio, *Messiah*. An annual tradition for many UMS patrons, these performances mark the official start of the holiday season in Ann Arbor. Join us for a spirited "Hallelujah!"

Presented with the generous support of Dr. James and Millie Irwin

Boys Choir of Harlem

Thursday, December 9, 8 p.m.
Hill Auditorium

Catch a glimpse of Christmases Past, Present, and Future in the unique and diverse holiday program by the Boys Choir of Harlem. This irresistible, inspirational and thrilling ensemble journeys through the traditional sounds of Handel's *Messiah* and Vivaldi's *Gloria*, uplifting spiritual and gospel selections, and popular Christmas favorites.

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Free Educational Event

Lecture by Dr. Turnbull, sponsored by UMS and Center for African and Afroamerican Studies. *Thurs, Dec 9, 3 p.m., School of Music Recital Hall.*

Frederica von Stade

mezzo-soprano
Martin Katz, piano

Friday, December 10, 8 p.m.
Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre

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Free Educational Event

PREP by Richard LeSuer. *Fri, Dec 10, 7 p.m., Michigan League Koessler Library.*

A Lutheran Christmas Celebration (c. 1620)

Gabrieli Consort & Players

with the UMS Choral Union
Paul McCreesh, director

Tuesday, December 14, 8 p.m.
St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church

Since its founding by Paul McCreesh in 1982, the Gabrieli Consort & Players have gained an international reputation for their extraordinary reconstructions of famous sixteenth- and seventeenth-century musical events. Michael Praetorius (1571–1621) was the most influential, multifaceted and prolific German composer of his generation, and his sacred music became the basic repertoire for Lutheran churches in northern Germany, laying the groundwork for Johann Sebastian Bach. A colorful range of instruments and massed choirs join together in recreating Praetorius' music as it might have been heard on Christmas morning nearly 400 years ago.

PROGRAM
Praetorius — A Lutheran Christmas Celebration (c. 1620)

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DECEMBER EVENTS

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Who to write to:
Mail press releases to John Hinchey, Calendar Editor, Ann Arbor Observer, 201 Catherine, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104. (There is an after-hours drop box at the front door.) **NO PHONE CALLS, PLEASE, but faxes are welcome or send E-mail to events@arborweb.com.** Fax numbers are: **769–3375 or 769–4950. The entire Observer events calendar for the month is available on arborweb: http://www.arborweb.com.**

What gets in?

With few exceptions, events must be within Ann Arbor. Always include the address and telephone of a contact person. Please try to submit materials as early as possible; items submitted after the deadline (the tenth day of the preceding month) might not get in.

Next month's deadline:

All appropriate materials received by Friday, December 10, will be used as space permits; materials submitted later might not get in.

★ *Denotes no admission charge.*

WARNING!

To save space, many recurrent events are noted only the first time they occur. This includes many weekly and biweekly events. To find a full list of events for the last Wednesday in the month, for example, readers should also check earlier Wednesday listings, especially the first Wednesday.

1 WEDNESDAY

★**"Library On-Line Catalog": Ann Arbor District Library.** Library staffers offer a hands-on introduction on how to use the library's electronic catalog, which can be accessed in the library or from the library website (www.aadl.org). *8:30 a.m., AADL West Branch, Westgate Shopping Center, 2503 Jackson Rd. Free. Preregistration required. 994–1674.*

★**Drop-In Storytimes: Ann Arbor District Library.** *December 1, 2, & 7–9 (different branch locations).* Stories, songs, and finger plays for preschoolers age 3 and up. An adult must be present in the library but need not attend. *Note:* The main library also holds storytime programs (see 2 Thursday listing). *9:30–10 a.m., AADL Loving Branch (Dec. 1 & 8) & West Branch (Dec. 7), & 10:30–11 a.m., Northeast Branch (Dec. 2 & 9). Free. 994–2353, 994–1674, 996–3180.*

"Introduction to Computers I & II": Ann Arbor District Library. *December 1 & 7 (part 1) and December 8 & 14 (part 2).* Hands-on introduction to computers, with an emphasis on basic skills. Open to all AADL cardholders. *10 a.m. (Dec. 1 & 8) & 7 p.m. (Dec. 7 & 14), AADL training center (3rd floor), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. $5. Preregistration required. 327–4550.*

★**"A Day Without Art": U-M Museum of Art.** In recognition of World AIDS day, the museum drapes a number of works in black mourning cloth to acknowledge the wealth of creativity lost through the severe impact of AIDS on the international arts community. Also, continuous screenings of ***Blue,*** Derek Jarman's film about his loss of sight due to AIDS. *10 a.m.–5 p.m., UMMA, 525 S. State at South University. Free. 764–0395.*

★**"AIDS Awareness Week": U-M Health Services.** *November 28–December 4.* A week of events focusing on AIDS education. Today: **World AIDS Day Fair** features information tables staffed by representatives from area health and support service agencies (Michigan Union ballroom, 10 a.m.–3 p.m.). Also, **free HIV oral testing** (Michigan Union Parker Room, 10 a.m.–3 p.m.), a **candlelight vigil** (Michigan Union front steps, 5 p.m.), and a choral performance followed by **"Honor Thy Children,"** a talk about personal and family reconciliation by U-M grads Al & Jane Nakatani, who lost two sons to AIDS (Rackham Auditorium, 6 p.m.). Also, Dr. Ruth Westheimer speaks at the Michigan Theater (see below). *10 a.m., various locations. Free. 647–6838.*

Theaterworks USA, Dec. 12

Paul Geremia, Dec. 8

GALLERIES

97 **EXHIBIT OPENINGS** — Laura Bien

97 **GALLERY REVIEW**
Richard Harrington's *Marriage* — Laura Bien

MUSIC AT NIGHTSPOTS

131 **NIGHTSPOTS SCHEDULE** — John Hinchey

131 **NIGHTSPOTS REVIEW**
The Easy Street Jazz Band — Erick Trickey

EVENTS REVIEWS

85 **LYN COFFIN**
Give any God a chance — Keith Taylor

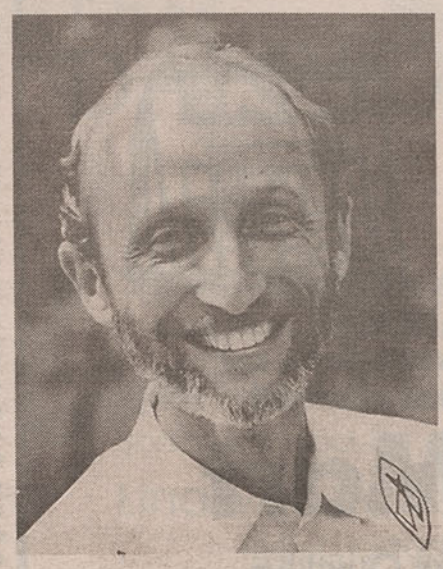
93 **RICKY SKAGGS**
The road back to bluegrass — James M. Manheim

103 **PAUL McCREESH & THE GABRIELI CONSORT**
The gaudy glories of the Baroque — Jim Leonard

111 **KIRKLAND TEEPLE**
Funnier — Kate Conner-Ruben

152 **EVENTS AT A GLANCE**

Frederica von Stade, Dec. 10



Laz Slomovits, Dec. 8, 11, & 31

"Charlotte's Web": Wild Swan Theater. *December 1–5.* This acclaimed local children's theater troupe presents Hilary Cohen directing local playwright and EMU English professor Jeff Duncan's adaptation of E. B. White's beloved, moving story of a little pig's friendship with a gentle, uncommonly wise spider. Appropriate for children in grades K–5. As with all Wild Swan productions, the performance is interpreted in American Sign Language. Audio description and backstage "touch" tours are available by prearrangement for blind audience members. Cast: Sandy Ryder, Laura Thompson, Bruce Gnegy, Lise Lacasse, Antonio Ramirez, and Michelle Trame Lanzi. *10 a.m. & 12:30 p.m. (Dec. 1–3); 2 p.m. (Dec. 4 & 5); additional shows at 7:30 p.m. (Dec. 3) & 4 p.m. (Dec. 5), Washtenaw Community College Morris J. Lawrence Bldg. Towsley Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Tickets $8 (children, $6) in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and all other Ticketmaster outlets, and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS. To arrange tours or audio description, call 995–0530.*

"Coffee with Faculty": U-M Alumni Association. *December 1, 2, & 7.* Coffee & pastries, followed by talks by U-M faculty members. Today: **"The Lost Suitcase,"** a talk by U-M English professor Nicholas Delbanco on the difference between early promise and posthumous fame, focusing on lost early Hemingway manuscripts. Also this month: U-M nursing professors Bonnie Haggerty and Reg Williams discuss **"A Sense of Belonging: The Key Predictor of Major Depression"** (December 2), and **"An Explosive Combination of Science, History, and Ethics"** (December 7), a talk by U-M chemistry professor Brian Coppola, a very dynamic and popular speaker, on Alfred Nobel and the invention of dynamite. *10 a.m.–noon (Dec. 1 & 2) & 2–4 p.m. (Dec. 7), U-M Alumni Center, 200 Fletcher. $10. Reservations required. 763–9707.*

★**"Travel Talk": Northeast Senior Center.** Representatives from Regency Travel discuss travel ideas (bring your own suggestions). *11 a.m., Dixboro United Methodist Church, 5221 Church Rd. (off N. Dixboro Rd. just north of Plymouth Rd.). Free. 996–0070.*

★**Ann Arbor Juggling Arts Club.** *Every Wednesday & Saturday except December 25. All* invited to practice their juggling skills. Beginners welcome. *Noon–3 p.m., Eberbach Cultural Arts Bldg., 1220 S. Forest at Wells (Wed.); & 3–5 p.m., U-M Diag (Sat.). Free. 913–5831.*

Wednesday Cooking Class: Kitchen Port. *Today only.* Cookbook author Maxine Henderson, who's been called "a baking whirlwind," prepares several types of **"Holiday Cookies."** Also, scrumptious home-made door prizes. *Noon–1 p.m., Kitchen Port (Kerrytown). $5 includes coffee, taste samples, and recipes. 665–9188.*

★**"Romania: The Violent Revolution in Retrospect": U-M Center for Russian and East European Studies Brown Bag Lecture.** Talk by U-M anthropology professor Eric Wolf. Bring a bag lunch. *Noon, 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 764–0351.*

★**ArtVideos: U-M Museum of Art.** *Every Wednesday & Thursday except December 2.* This series of video documentaries about art and art history highlights **Italy** this month. Today: ***The Accademia Museum of Venice*** introduces the city and its principal museum. Also this month: ***Yellow Gash: Jean-Paul Sartre on Tintoretto*** presents an unusual view of the Venetian master painter through the eyes of one of his most ardent fans (December 8 & 9), ***Uffizi: Story of the Museum*** details the evolution of this Florentine museum (December 15 & 16), and the 2-day, 2-part ***Florence: The Power of the Past*** finds evidence of this city's Renaissance legacy in its contemporary residents' life and thought (December 22 & 23). *12:10 p.m. (Wed.) & 7:30 p.m. (Thurs.), UMMA audiovisual room, 525 S. State at South University. Free. 764–0395.*

★**Martha Gelarden and Bruce Thayer: EMU Ford Gallery.** Opening reception for this EMU student exhibit (see Galleries listing). *3–5 p.m., EMU Ford Gallery, 114 Ford Hall, EMU campus, Ypsilanti. Free. 487–1268.*

The Neutral Zone/Ann Arbor Teen Center. *Every Tuesday–Saturday except December 18–January 3.* Young adult center with a variety of fun social activities. *Special events this month:* **DJ training** (December 1, 8, & 15, 5–6 p.m.), **Drummin',** for all beginning drummers who'd like to learn drum set basics (December 1, 8, & 15, 6–7 p.m.; call to preregister), **band party** (December 3 & 17, 8 p.m.–mid-

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EVENTS *continued*

night, $3), **swing dancing** (December 2, 9, & 16, 5:30–7 p.m.), a **DJ party** (December 4, 9 p.m.–midnight, $3), **karaoke night** (December 11, 8 p.m.–midnight, $3) and more. Also, an **End of the Millennium Poetry Explosion** (see 10 Friday listing). *3–9 p.m. (Tues.–Thurs.), 8 p.m.–midnight (Fri. & Sat.), The Neutral Zone, 637 S. Main St. (the old Ark bldg.). Free (unless otherwise noted above). 214–9966.*

"Buhrrr Blast": Ann Arbor Parks Department. *Every Wednesday.* A variety of activities for kids. *3:30–5:15 p.m., Buhr Park outdoor ice rink, 2751 Packard Rd. $2.50. 971–3228.*

Kids Meeting: Washtenaw Chess Club. *Every Monday & Wednesday.* All kids invited to play chess with their peers. Chess sets & clocks provided. *4–7 p.m., Chess Express, 220 S. Main (below Elmo's Supershirts). $3 (first-time visitors, free). 665–0612.*

1999 St. Nicholas Light Display: Spirit of Christmas. *Nightly from November 25 through December 31.* This annual 15-minute drive-through spectacular features over a million lights twinkling on Domino's Farms trees and in special displays, including the Snowflake Tunnel, Santa's Sleigh, a Nativity scene, Noah's Ark (animated), and the zigzag, sculptural Lighted Cellular Tower. Indoor attractions at Lobby B include a hallway of lavishly decorated holiday trees, a display of Nativity scenes from around the world, and a Winter Wonderland display with a mini train. Also, a chance to have your photo taken with Santa and live reindeer; make-an-ornament crafts for kids. Refreshments available. Proceeds benefit area charities. *6–10 p.m. (Mon.–Thurs.) & 5:30–10:30 p.m. (Fri.–Sun.), Domino's Farms, 30 Frank Lloyd Wright Dr. (off Earhart Rd. north of Plymouth Rd.). Admission $5 per vehicle (Mon.–Thurs.), $7 per vehicle (Fri.–Sun.). Buses: $100. 930–4430.*

★**Weekly Meeting: Ann Arbor Toastmasters Club.** *Every Wednesday.* Members give speeches and are critiqued by their audience. *Note:* Different Toastmasters chapters meet every Monday & Thursday (see listings). *6:15–7:45 p.m., Concordia College Science Bldg., 4090 Geddes Rd. Free to visitors. Dues: $24 semiannually. 995–7351.*

Team USA: USA Hockey National Team Development Program. *December 1, 17, & 18 (different opponents).* This Ann Arbor–based program features 46 of the best 16- and 17-year-old American ice hockey players under the guidance of U.S. National coach Jeff Jackson. The program fields two teams—the Under-17 Team and the Under-18 Team—that play full schedules, September–March, against teams from the top American junior leagues (players ages 18–21) and against comparable European national teams. Today: **Team USA Under-17 vs. Cleveland** of the North American Hockey League. *7 p.m., Ann Arbor Ice Cube, 2121 Oak Valley Dr. at Scio Church Rd. $6 (students & children, $3). 327–9251.*

Open Meeting: Washtenaw Chess Club. *Every Monday & Wednesday.* All invited to play chess with their peers. Chess sets & clocks provided. *7–11 p.m., Chess Express, 220 S. Main (below Elmo's Supershirts). $3 (first-time visitors, free). 665–0612.*

★**Monthly Meeting: Community Action on Substance Abuse.** All invited to help plan substance-abuse prevention activities with this local volunteer group. *7 p.m., First Presbyterian Church Curtis Room, 1432 Washtenaw. Free. 995–3782, 973–7892.*

★**"The Field of Spirit."** *Every Wednesday.* Local spiritual channeler, healer, and counselor Sandra Shears leads a spirituality program that includes discussion, meditation, and energy healing. *7–8:30 p.m., location TBA. Free for newcomers. 663–6440.*

★**Monthly Meeting: Huron Valley Model Builders.** All invited to join a show-and-tell discussion. Bring your model car. *7 p.m., Lakeview Mobile Home Park clubhouse, 9910 Gerraldine, Ypsilanti Twp. (take I-94 to southbound Huron St. exit, turn left on Textile, turn right on Bunton). Free. 481–1044.*

Weekly Meeting: Ann Arbor Bridge Club. *Every Wednesday.* Each 2-person team plays 2 or 3 hands against a dozen or so other pairs during the evening. Players at all levels welcome. If you plan to come without a partner, call in advance or arrive 20 minutes early to arrange for one. *7–11 p.m., Walden Hills Clubhouse, 2114 Pauline at Maple. (Park on the north side of Pauline.) $3 per person. 971–7530.*

Benefit Drum Circle. Local drummer Lori Fithian leads an introductory session on drumming in a drum circle. Instruments provided. *7–9 p.m., Swing City Dance Studio, Colonial Lanes Plaza, 1960 South Industrial. $5–$10 suggested donation. Pre-registration required. 426–7818.*

★**"Modern Streamers for Trophy Trout": Liberty Borders/Trout Unlimited.** Bob Linsenman of Rose City, Michigan, discusses and signs this fishing guide he coauthored with Kelly Galloup. *7 p.m., Borders, 612 E. Liberty. Free. 668–7652.*

★**Julia Hardy: Ann Arbor Art Center.** The opening reception for this exhibit of her lush watercolors (see Galleries listing) includes a talk by Hardy. *7 p.m., Workbench Contemporary Furniture, 410 N. Fourth St. Free. 994–8004, ext. 122.*

★**"The Mask of Fu Manchu": U-M Rackham School of Graduate Studies "The Dividing Eye: Racializing Bodies at the Movies" Series.** Screening of Charles Brabin's 1932 horror thriller about a criminal mastermind trying to beat British archaeologists to the relic-filled tomb of Genghis Khan. Followed by a talk exploring the movie's portrayal of race, by U-M film and video studies chair Gaylyn Studlar. *7 p.m., Angell Hall Auditorium D. Free. 763–2447.*

★**Channeled Spiritual Discussion Group: Deep Spring Center.** *December 1, 8, & 15.* All invited to share their spiritual and metaphysical questions with others with similar interests. The evening is led by Aaron, a "being of light" channeled by Barbara Brodsky. Aaron offers a talk and answers personal and universal questions. Socializing. Also, Brodsky channels **"Angels in Earthsuits"** ($80), a one-day workshop with Aaron on December 4. *7:30 p.m., 3455 Charing Cross Rd. (off Packard just west of US-23). Free, but donations are accepted. 971–3455.*

★**"Evening Meditation": Karma Thegsum Choling.** KTC staff members introduce Buddhist thought and demonstrate basic meditation practices. All invited. *7:30–8:30 p.m., KTC, 614 Miner (off Miller). Free. 761–7495.*

★**Shamanic Journeys: Magical Education Council.** *Every Wednesday.* Using special postures, participants enter a meditative state to the beat of a shaman's drum and discuss their experiences afterward. *7:30 p.m., Inter-Cooperative Council Education Center, 1522 Hill St. (in the carriage house behind the co-op buildings). Free. 665–3522.*

★**"Visual FoxPro": Ann Arbor Computer Society.** Karen Lahey and Paul Berneis of Huron Valley Software Consulting discuss this programmable, relational database. *7:30–9:30 p.m., 1200 U-M EECS, 1301 Beal, North Campus. Free. 668–1982.*

★**"Introduction to Steiner's Thought": Rudolf Steiner Study Circle of Ann Arbor.** *Every Wednesday.* All invited to discuss one of Rudolf Steiner's basic anthroposophical books, *Theosophy. 8–9:30 p.m., Rudolf Steiner House, 1923 Geddes Ave. Free. 994–3496.*

★**Monthly Meeting: Thai Speaking Group.** Thai speakers of all levels of proficiency invited to get together for conversation. *8–9 p.m., Cafe Zola, 112 West Washington. Free. 741–9010.*

Scandinavian Couple Dancing: Multicultural Folk Arts Center. Traditional turning couple dances, mainly from Sweden and Norway, including hambo, schottis, and Telespringar. Live music by Rumpetroll. All dances taught. No partner necessary. Hard-soled shoes strongly recommended. All invited. *8–10:30 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (1/2 mile south of I-94). $5. 327–3636.*

Dr. Ruth Westheimer: U-M University Activities Center/Hillel. America's most famous sexuality expert, host of the radio show *Sexually Speaking* and author of fifteen books, speaks about her past and current work in the field. Following the talk, audience members can write down anonymous questions to be answered in a 45-minute Q&A session. *8 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets $10 (students, $5) in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and all other Ticketmaster outlets, and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS. For more information, call 769–0500.*

★**Amanda Davis and Ken Foster: Shaman Drum Bookshop.** These two New York City fiction writers read from their debut short story collections. Davis's ***Circling the Drain*** explores the inner lives of a variety of wounded souls in a prose that blends a bleak naturalism with a surreal, oddly beautiful lyricism. Foster's ***The Kind I'm Likely to Get*** features tales, told in a prose notable for its evocative musicality, about a variety of New Yorkers of marginal circumstance struggling with boredom and apathy. Signing, refreshments. *8 p.m., Shaman Drum Bookshop, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.*

"The Harlem Nutcracker": University Musical Society/Detroit Opera House/Arts League of Michigan. *November 26–28 & December 1–5.* Choreographer Donald Byrd's immensely popular jazz version of Tchaikovsky's Christmas ballet, with adaptations of Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker Suite* by Duke Ellington, Billy Strayhorn, and David Berger, appears in full glory at the newly renovated Detroit Opera House. **Round-trip bus transportation** ($7)

is available for the evening performances on November 26 & 27 and December 4 only. *Buses leave Pioneer High School parking lot at 6:30 p.m. Performances at 8 p.m. (Dec. 5, 7 p.m.), with additional matinees at 2 p.m. (Sat.) and 3 p.m. (Sun.), Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway, Detroit. Tickets $15–$40 (Dec. 1 & Dec. 5 evening shows, $12–$36) in advance at Burton Tower and at www.ums.org on the web. To charge by phone, call 764–2538, (800) 221–1229.*

★**Weekly Meeting: Shorinji Kempo.** *Every Wednesday.* All invited to try this Japanese self-defense system, which combines hard and soft techniques with Zen philosophy. *8:30–10:30 p.m., Dance Gallery Studio, 111 Third St. at W. Huron. Free to first-time visitors ($25 monthly dues). 332–1780.*

Agents of Good Roots: Prism Productions. Improvisational, funk-influenced rock 'n' roll by this popular Richmond, Virginia, quartet. *10:30 p.m. (doors open at 9 p.m.), The Blind Pig, 208 S. First. Tickets $8 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and all other Ticketmaster outlets; $10 at the door. To charge by phone, call (810) 645–6666; for information, call 996–8555.*

FILMS

U-M Center for European Studies. "The Wall" (Juergen Boettcher, 1990). *Today only.* Documentary about the process that culminated in the collapse of the Berlin Wall. German, subtitles. FREE. 936–6480. Angell Hall Auditorium C, 6 p.m. **U-M Michigan League. "Rushmore"** (Wes Anderson, 1998). Video showing of this acerbic romantic comedy about a precocious 15-year-old boy on scholarship at a private school. Jason Schwartzman, Bill Murray, Olivia Williams. FREE. 763–4652. League Underground, 911 North University, 8 p.m. **U-M Rackham School of Graduate Studies. "The Mask of Fu Manchu"** (Charles Brabin, 1932). See Events listing, above. FREE. 763–2447. Angell Hall Auditorium D. 7 p.m.

2 THURSDAY

"Annual Holiday Bazaar and Bake Sale": Chelsea Community Hospital. Sale of baked goods and items such as a Frontier Santa, handmade quilt, and more. Also, raffle. *8 a.m.–2:30 p.m., Chelsea Community Hospital main dining room, 1105 S. Main, Chelsea. Free admission. 475–3913.*

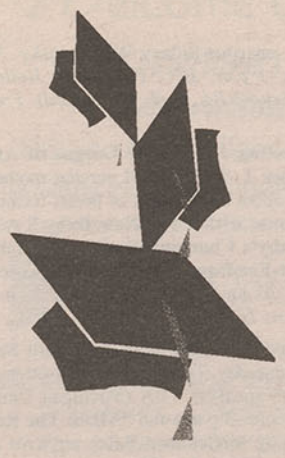
★**"Senior Citizen Exercise Class": Brookhaven Manor.** *Every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, & Friday except December 22–January 2.* All seniors over 55 invited for chair aerobics (Mondays), aerobics with resistance training (Tuesdays & Thursdays), and balance training (Fridays), taught by a fitness instructor. *9–9:45 a.m., Brookhaven Manor, 401 Oakbrook Dr. Free. 747–8800.*

★**Drop-In Storytimes: Ann Arbor District Library.** *Every Tuesday & Thursday through December 9.* Stories, songs, and finger plays for preschoolers age 3 and up. An adult must be present in the library but need not attend. This week's topic: **"Good Morning."** Also this month: **"Good Night"** (December 7 & 9). *9:30–10 a.m. (Thurs.) & 4–4:30 p.m. (Tues.), AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–8301.*

52nd Annual Greens Market: Women's Farm and Garden Association. A wide selection of fresh greenery arranged in wreaths, bundles, and swags for holiday decoration. Also, handmade gifts and crafts, including wreath bows, hand-knit items, homemade pasta, and fresh baked goods. Lunch available (11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.). Proceeds benefit local nonprofit organizations. *9:30 a.m.–2 p.m., Women's City Club, 1830 Washtenaw. Free admission. Wheelchair-accessible. 769–1231.*

★**"Children's Storytime": Arborland Borders.** *Every Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday.* Borders staff read a variety of children's tales. *10 a.m. (Tuesdays & Thursdays) & 7 p.m. (Mondays), Borders, 3527 Washtenaw. Free. 677–6948.*

★**Thursday Lunch Bunch: Jewish Community Center.** *Every Thursday except December 30.* A weekly program of activities primarily for seniors. The program begins at 10 a.m. with **"Adults at Leisure Coffee Hour,"** a social support discussion group led by local social worker Phyllis Herzig that offers a chance to socialize, listen to music, tell jokes, and relax. At 11 a.m., an educational or cultural presentation. This week: Ann Arbor VA Hospital infectious-disease chief Carol Kauffman discusses **"Shingles: What Is It?"** Also this month: the Hebrew Day School Singers present a **"Hanukkah Music Festival"** (December 9), a panel discussion on **"The Value of Volunteering"** (December 16), and an open discussion of **"Travel Stories and Adventures"** (December 23). The weekly program concludes with **Senior Literary Group** (2–3 p.m.), a book discussion group led by U-M Dearborn En-



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Christmas Eve	
Family Service	5:30 pm
Choral Service	7:30 pm
Candlelight Service	11:00 pm
Christmas Day	10:00 am
New Year's Eve	7:30 pm

ELLA FITZGERALD
SOMETHING TO LIVE FOR
9 p.m., Sunday, December 5

Tony Bennett narrates this full-length documentary portrait of the "First Lady of Song."

ANDREA BOCELLI: SACRED ARIAS
8 p.m., Friday, December 3

Tenor Andrea Bocelli makes a pilgrimage to Rome, the Eternal City, for a holiday concert featuring a selection of carols and sacred arias. Bocelli lifts his voice to new heights in "Ave Maria," "Panis Angelicus," and other favorites.

BURN THE FLOOR
8 p.m., Saturday, December 4
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EVENTS *continued*

glish professor emeritus Sidney Warschausky. All invited. *10 a.m.–3 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 971–0990.*

★**Monthly Meetings: La Leche League of Ann Arbor.** *December 2, 8, & 15.* All nursing mothers invited to learn about the benefits of breast-feeding. Today: **"At Home with Your New Baby."** Also this month: **"Baby's Changing Needs"** (December 8) and **"Breast-Feeding: The Healthy Choice"** (December 15). *10 a.m. (Dec. 2 & 15) & 7:30 p.m. (Dec. 8), locations TBA. Free. 332–9080.*

★**"AIDS Awareness Week": U-M Health Services.** See 1 Wednesday. Today: an AIDS awareness symposium with speakers TBA (Michigan Union Pond Room, 10 a.m.–3 p.m.) and **"AIDS: The Real World,"** a talk by Mohammed Balal, an actor on MTV's *The Real World: San Francisco* who lost a friend to AIDS (Rackham Auditorium, 8 p.m.). 10 a.m.

"Charlotte's Web": Wild Swan Theater. See 1 Wednesday. 10 a.m. & 12:30 p.m.

★**"Chair Exercise Class": Hidden Pond Manor.** *Every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, & Friday except December 27, 28, 30, & 31.* All seniors invited for sit-down aerobic exercise and strength training taught by a fitness instructor. *10:15–11 a.m. (Tues. & Thurs.) & 11–11:45 a.m. (Mon. & Fri.), Hidden Pond Manor, 3470 Carpenter Rd. Free. 677–0071.*

★**"Children's Story Time": Barnes & Noble.** *Every Thursday except December 23 & 30.* Barnes & Noble staffers present storytelling programs and craft activities for kids ages 2–9. Today's topic: **"Hanukkah Stories."** Also this month: **"Christmas Around the World"** (December 9) and **"Winter Holiday Stories"** (December 16). *11 a.m. & 7 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3245 Washtenaw. Free. 677–6475.*

★**Wee Ones Storytimes: Magic Carpet Books & Wonders.** *Every Thursday & Saturday except December 25 & January 1.* A half hour of fun and stories, for kids ages 2–4 accompanied by a parent. Today and December 4: Jeanne Modesitt's **"It's Hanukkah!"** and other holiday stories. Also this month: Ian Whybrow's **"Jump In"** and other silly tales (December 9 & 11), Cynthia Rylant's **"Cookie-Store Cat"** and more about sweet treats (December 16 & 18), Eric Hill's **"Spot's First Christmas"** and other holiday stories (December 23), and Janie Bynum's **"Altoona Baboona"** and more monkey stories (Dec. 30). *11 a.m., Magic Carpet, Lamp Post Plaza, 2345 E. Stadium. Free. 973–8757.*

★**Michigan League Tour: The Friends of the Michigan League.** Docent-led tour that covers everything from the Michigan League's gorgeous Pewabic tile and stained glass to its importance in the history of women at the U-M. *11 a.m., Michigan League. Free. 647–7463.*

★**Weekly Meeting: Rotary Club of Ann Arbor North.** *Every Thursday.* Speakers and topics TBA. All invited. Lunch available (usually $8). *Noon–1:30 p.m., Holiday Inn North Campus, 3600 Plymouth Rd. Free. 662–5599.*

★**Thursday Noon Luncheon Club: First United Methodist Church.** *December 2, 9, & 16.* Fellowship and lunch ($4) followed by a talk TBA. All invited. *Noon–1:30 p.m., First United Methodist Church, State St. at Huron. Free. 998–4798.*

★**Noon Lecture Series: U-M Center for Japanese Studies.** *December 2 & 6.* Talks by U-M and visiting scholars; bring a bag lunch. Today: University of Minnesota political science professor Margarita Estevez-Abe on **"Rethinking Welfare Capitalism: Japan in Comparative Perspective."** Also this month: NPR foreign correspondent T. R. Reid on **"Separated at Birth? Japan and Britain, the Island Twins"** (December 6). *Noon, 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 764–6307.*

★**Gifts of Art: U-M Hospitals.** *December 2, 9, 11, 16, & 23.* A series of performances by area musicians. Today: a musical sampler of choral selections, piano solos, and chamber pieces by two U-M medical student musical groups, the **Borodin Medical Scholars** and the **Voices of Healing.** Also this month: klezmer (Eastern European Jewish party music) by **Dobriden** (December 9), seasonal vocal music by the **Ann Arbor Civic Chorus** (December 11, 1:30 p.m.), holiday music by the **Jackson Brass Quintet** (December 16), and "Seasonal Harmonies" by the hospital employee chorus **Counterpoint** (December 23). *12:10 p.m., University Hospital 1st-floor main lobby, 1500 E. Medical Center Dr. (off Fuller). Free. 936–ARTS.*

★**"Advent Noon Recital Series": First Presbyterian Church Thursday Forum.** *December 2, 9, & 16.* Today: **"Going Solo,"** a program of Christmas music by the church's vocal soloists, including sopranos Julia Broxholm and Lorna Hildebrandt, alto Sally Carpenter, and tenors Jeff Douma and Gerry Leckrone. The series also includes **"Ring Gloria!"** (December 9), a handbell concert by the church's Gloria Ringers, Sanctus Ringers, and Reverberations, and a program of **"Carols & Anthems"** (December 16) by the church's chancel choir, led by First Presbyterian music director Susan Wilburn. Lunch buffet ($4) available beginning 11:45 a.m. *12:30–1 p.m., First Presbyterian Church sanctuary, 1432 Washtenaw. Free. 662–4466.*

★**"Access Soapbox": Ann Arbor Community Television Network.** *Every Thursday.* A chance to express your views, discuss your activities, or announce upcoming events on the local public access station (cable channel 17). Participants are free to talk about anything they wish within CTN guidelines: no direct solicitation of funds, no lottery information, and no material that is obscene, defamatory, invasive of personal privacy, or infringing on copyrights or trademarks. Limited to 5 minutes, each segment features 1 or 2 speakers (with no more than two graphics) who talk directly to the camera. Production crew provided by CTN. *Access Soapbox* shows are aired daily for one week, beginning on Sunday. *2–7 p.m., CTN studio, Edison Center, Suite LL114, 425 S. Main. Free. Reservations accepted Tues. through Fri. of the week preceding your appearance. 769–7422.*

★**"Constructions of the Classical Body": Shaman Drum Bookshop Publication Party.** U-M classical studies and comparative literature professor Jim Porter signs copies of this recently published collection he edited, a series of essays exploring imaginative conceptions of the human body from ancient to medieval times. Refreshments. *4–6 p.m., Shaman Drum Bookshop, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.*

★**"Renewing the Civic Mission of the American Research University": John Dewey Lecture (U-M Center for Learning Through Community Service).** Talk by University of Vermont president **Judith Ramaley.** This annual lecture honors the pioneering 19th-century Michigan educator John Dewey. *4 p.m., Rackham Assembly Hall. Free. 647–7402.*

★**"Globalization and Its Impact on the Health of African Women and Women in the Diaspora": U-M Population Fellows Program.** Talk by Morehouse School of Medicine international health professor Patricia Rodney, an advisor to the Congressional Black Caucus on public health issues. *4:45 p.m., U-M School of Public Health faculty lounge, 109 S. Observatory. Free. 763–9382.*

★**Wole Soyinka: U-M English Department Visiting Writers Series.** Poetry reading by this Nobel laureate playwright, poet, essayist, and novelist who currently teaches at Emory University (Atlanta). His works are distinguished by their exploration of the African world view, and are steeped in the mythology, imagery, and dramatic idioms of the Yoruba, the largest ethnic group in Soyinka's native Nigeria. *5 p.m. Rackham Amphitheater. Free. 647–6471.*

★**"When Time Began to Rant and Rage" Tour: U-M Museum of Art.** *December 2, 5, 9, 12, & 16.* Museum docents explain this exhibit of 60 20th-century Irish figurative paintings. *6:30 p.m. (Dec. 2, 9, & 16) & 2 p.m. (Dec. 5 & 12), UMMA, 525 S. State at South University. Free. 764–0395.*

"Beginners Guide to the World Wide Web": Ann Arbor District Library. *December 2, 7, & 18.* Hands-on introduction to web basics, including how to use browsing software and other Internet features. Open to all AADL library cardholders. *Note:* A free version of this class (preregistration required), with less hands-on opportunity, is offered at the Northeast Branch (December 1, 3 p.m.). *7 p.m. (Dec. 2), 3 p.m. (Dec. 7), & 11 a.m. (Dec. 18), AADL training center (3rd floor), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. $5. Preregistration required. 327–4550.*

★**Monthly Meeting: Community Action on Substance Abuse.** All invited to help plan substance-abuse prevention activities with this local volunteer group. *7 p.m., First Presbyterian Church Curtis Room, 1432 Washtenaw. Free. 995–3782, 973–7892.*

★**Weekly Meeting: Washtenaw Toastmasters.** *Every Thursday.* Members develop public-speaking skills and self-confidence in a supportive environment. *Note*: Different Toastmasters chapters meet Mondays and Wednesdays (see listings). *7–9 p.m., 777 E. Eisenhower dining room (at S. State). Free to visitors. Dues: $52 a year (after a onetime nonrefundable fee of $16). 572–9978.*

★**Biweekly Meeting: Formerly Employed Mothers at the Leading Edge.** *December 2 & 16.* Networking meetings for women who have interrupted their careers to care for their children. Tonight: **"Pampering Ourselves: Relieving Holiday Stress."** Also this month: a stress-relieving informal evening of game playing, eating, and chatting (De-

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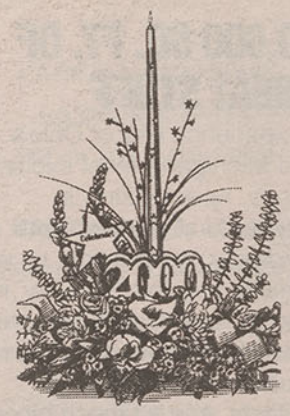

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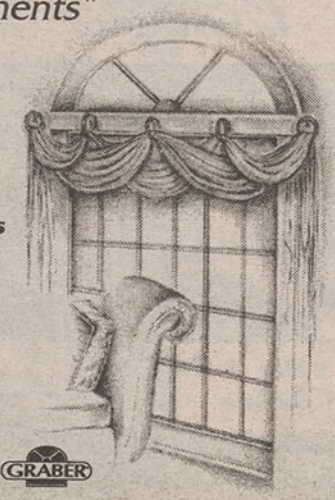

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EVENTS *continued*

cember 16). *7–9 p.m. Genesis Foundation (Temple Beth Emeth/St. Clare's Episcopal Church), 2309 Packard. Free. 677–6177.*

★**"Sexuality and Spirituality: Exploring the Connections": Guild House Campus Ministry.** Discussion group for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender folks. *7–8 p.m., Guild House, 802 Monroe at Oakland. Free. 662–5189.*

★**"Coffee Hour": Druids of Shining Lakes Grove.** All invited to join members of this local pagan group for coffee and discussion. *7–9 p.m., Crazy Wisdom, 114 S. Main St. Free. 487–4931.*

★**"Artists among Us": Arts Group Saline.** Local glass artist **Barbara Thomas-Yerace** discusses her lampworking and glassblowing techniques and her glassware, beads, and jewelry. Refreshments. *7 p.m., Saline District Library, 555 N. Maple Rd., Saline. Free. 429–0008.*

★**"Report on a Major Study of the Huron River": Huron River Watershed Council.** Talk by U-M natural resources professor Mike Wiley. *7 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1600 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 769–5971.*

★**"Music in the Cafe": Liberty Borders.** *December 2, 6, 8, & 9.* Performances by various local musicians. Today: acoustic gypsy swing by the trio of **Summers, Delaney, & Sharp.** Also this month: local singer-songwriter Lisa Hunter presents **"Eco-Campfire: Winter Woods"** (December 6), kids tunes by **Laz Slomovits** of the acoustic duo Gemini (December 8), and Celtic folk by the **Lawn Jockeys** acoustic duo (December 9). *7:30 p.m., Borders, 612 E. Liberty. Free. 668–7652.*

★**Monthly Meeting: Ann Arbor Smocking Group.** Informal "sit 'n' stitch" gathering for those interested in smocking, the English art of embroidering by gathering cloth in regularly spaced round tucks, and heirloom sewing. All invited. *7:30 p.m., location TBA. Free. 663–7867.*

★**Monthly Meeting: Ann Arbor Jaycees.** All people ages 21–39 are invited to join this organization devoted to promoting leadership training, community service, and individual development. Discussion topics TBA. Newcomers welcome. *7:30 p.m., Washtenaw Community College Morris J. Lawrence Bldg., room 101, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Free. 913–9629.*

★**"Micromount Minerals from Lava Flows": Huron Hills Lapidary Society Monthly Meeting.** All invited to discuss these tiny crystals, often of rare minerals, found in once molten rock and mounted in miniature display boxes. Bring your own. Also, bring rock and mineral specimens to swap. *7:30 p.m., West Side United Methodist Church, 900 S. Seventh St. at Davis. Free. 665–7166.*

★**"Contemporary Irish Theater": U-M Museum of Art.** Talk by Druid Theater Company (Galway) cofounder **Garry Hynes,** the Tony award–winning director of Martin McDonagh's bleak comedy and transatlantic hit *The Beauty Queen of Leenane. 7:30 p.m., UMMA, 525 S. State at South University. Free. 764–0395.*

Weekly Meeting: Tartan & Thistle Scottish Country Dancers. *Every Thursday.* Instruction for intermediate-level dancers in a wide range of traditional and contemporary Scottish dances, followed by social dancing. Soft-soled shoes recommended. Refreshments. *7:30–9:30 p.m., the barn at Gretchen's House V, 2625 Traver Rd. (off Nixon Rd.). $3. 769–4324, 426–0241.*

★**"Oz's Open Mike": Oz's Music Environment.** All musicians invited. Cohosted by local singer-songwriters Lili Fox and Shell. *7:30–9:30 p.m., Oz's, 1920 Packard. Free. 662–8283.*

★**"Winter Sing": Pioneer High School.** Kenneth Westerman leads all eight of the school's vocal groups in seasonal music. Also, a guest performance by **The Friars,** the popular U-M Men's Glee Club quartet. *7:30 p.m., Pioneer High School Schreiber Auditorium, 601 W. Stadium at S. Main. Free. 994–2120.*

★**Biweekly Meeting: Ann Arbor Ski Club.** *December 2 & 16.* All invited to learn about the club's downhill and cross-country ski and snowboarding outings and other social activities. Tonight's meeting is followed by a **dance.** Newcomers welcome. Must be 21 or older. *8 p.m., Schwaben Halle, 217 S. Ashley. Free. 761–3419.*

"Damien": The Stage Presence, Ltd. *December 2–4 (end of a 3-week run).* Sarah Hope Hedeen directs this inspiring one-man drama about the life and work of Father Damien DeVeuster, a 19th-century Belgian priest who spent his life advocating and caring for lepers exiled to the Hawaiian island of Molokai. Stars Jeffrey Hedeen. *8 p.m., Covenant Presbyterian Church, 5171 Jackson Rd. $12 ($10 students & seniors) in advance and at the door. 994–1479.*

"Utopia, Limited; or, The Flowers of Progress": U-M Gilbert and Sullivan Society. *December 2–5.* David Zinn and Victoria Rondeau direct this accomplished local town-and-gown company in Gilbert & Sullivan's 1893 comic operetta about citizens of a paradisal tropical island who become enamored of all things British. When the king's daughter returns with a Cambridge education, she brings with her six British men, the "Flowers of Progress," as representatives of everything wonderful about British civilization. The Flowers immediately seize control of Utopia and transform it into a British-style corporation, with hilarious results. Cast includes Gordon Barnett, Bob Conley, Don Devine, Matt Grace, Milena Gruber, Liam Hoekenga, Tom Petiet, and Philip Rhodes. Musical director is Scott Hochstetler. *8 p.m., Lydia Mendelssohn Theater, Michigan League. Tickets $14 & $16 (seniors $13 & $15, students with ID & children under 12, $7) in advance at the Michigan League Box Office and at the door. To charge by phone, call 764–0450. MGASS information: 647–8436.*

"Not Waving": Performance Network Professional Season. *November 26–28 and December 2–5, 9–12, & 16–19.* Dan Walker directs Gen LeRoy's comedy about the wild day's journey of Nicole, a witty, wildly courageous woman just released from a mental institution, and Gabby, her quiet, conservative mother. Frantic to regain control of her life, Nicole drags her reluctant mother through a whirlwind of adventures—from karate lessons to kidnapping Nicole's ex-cat. At first, Gabby is sure her daughter is still crazy, but as their escapades grow ever zanier, she begins for the first time in her life to let herself go. Cast: Carla Milarch, Dory Peltyn, Scott Dixon, Cadi Sutter. *8 p.m., Performance Network, 408 W. Washington. Tickets $18 (seniors, $15) on Fri. & Sat. & $15 (seniors, $12) on Thurs. & Sun. in advance by reservation and at the door. For reservations, call 663–0681; to charge by phone, call 663–0696.*

"Angels in America": Ann Arbor Civic Theater. *December 2–5, 7, & 9–12.* Melissa Johnson directs "The Millennium Approaches," a segment of the Pulitzer Prize–winning Tony Kushner trilogy *Angels in America,* which can fairly be said to have redefined modern American theater. Subtitled "a gay fantasia on national themes," *Angels* is an ambitious, sprawling, fantastic spectacle examining Reagan-era politics, religion, the AIDS plague, and the timeless questions of love, courage, and death. The drama centers on one HIV-positive man, his friends and loved ones, and the various presences who haunt him, including angelic messengers and the ghost of Ethel Rosenberg. *Note:* The 7 Tuesday performance is a benefit for the HIV/AIDS Resource Center. Cast includes Daniel Kitowski, Kevon Binkley, and Amy Kullenberg. *8 p.m., Ann Arbor Civic Theater, 2275 Platt Rd. at Huron Pkwy. (south of Washtenaw). $16 (students & seniors, $14) in advance and at the door. 971–AACT.*

Fred Eaglesmith: The Ark. This acclaimed young Canadian country-rock singer-songwriter is known for brilliantly realized tales of rural and small-town life that are alternately dark, tender, and brightly humorous, and that are brought to life by canny rhythmic and melodic settings that draw freely on a variety of idioms from folk and bluegrass to rockabilly to dissonant avant-rock. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $11 in advance at Borders on Liberty, Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, and all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

"Argentinian Tango": The Latin and Argentine Tango Club of Detroit. *December 2, 9, & 16.* Tango dancing to recorded music. Preceded at 7 p.m. by lessons ($10; couples, $15). *8:30–10 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (1/2 mile south of I-94). $5. (313) 561–3236.*

Jim Dailakis: Mainstreet Comedy Showcase. *December 2–4.* Australian comic. Preceded by two opening acts. Alcohol is served. *8:30 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. Tickets $10 reserved seating in advance, $12 general admission at the door. Group rates and other discounts available. 996–9080.*

FILMS

U-M Center for European Studies. "The Promise" (Margarete von Trotta, 1994). *Today only.* Shortly before the fall of the Berlin Wall, an East German astrophysicist tries to arrange contact with a friend who escaped to West Germany in 1961. German, subtitles. FREE. 936–6480. Michigan Theater, 7 p.m. **Michigan Theater Foundation. "Princess Mononoke"** (Hayao Miyazaki, 1999). *December 2–9.* Complex fantasy adventure by this celebrated Japanese *anime* (animated film) artist. Set in the Iron Age, the epic details a siege by samurai and forest gods of a remote village populated with society's outcasts. Dubbed into English. $7 (children, stu-

poetry

Lyn Coffin
Give any God a chance

More than twenty years ago, I attended a reading in Rackham Auditorium by Czeslaw Milosz, the Polish poet who would later win the Nobel Prize. He read his poems in Polish, and Lyn Coffin read the English translations. It was the first time I had heard of her. Later, when Czech poet Jaroslav Seifert won the Nobel, one of the few of his things then available in English was Coffin's translation of *The Plague Monument*—the translation the Nobel committee used in its deliberations. I began to think of Lyn Coffin, whom I had never met, as my door into the world of Eastern European poetry.

But I soon began to see her own poems in literary journals, and I bought her small-press collection, *The Poetry of Wickedness*. There I found a writer who shared my own fascination with the odd webs a life of reading weaves in the imagination. Since then, Lyn Coffin has been following her muse wherever it led her. She has continued to write poems that push and pull at the many forms with which she has experimented, and she has written masterfully in other media. Her plays, for instance, have been performed at Detroit's Attic Theater, as well as at the Performance Network and the Ann Arbor Civic Theater.

Now she has published her first new collection of original work in eighteen years. *Crystals of the Unforeseen* brings together a book-length collection of poems with a generous selection of fiction and two short plays. The plays are certainly a lot of fun to read, particularly *Fries in a Wineglass*, which is set in "the best restaurant in Ypsilanti." And the stories collected under the section heading "The Erotic Ballpark" are evocative and witty.

Still, I think Coffin works most completely as a poet. In the title poem, where Coffin explores the traditional association of love and death, she asks, "What are the children we actually / wanted if not crystals of the unforeseen?" And then she continues:

So when love, that spendthrift stranger, comes
banging at our back door on his way
to every back door in the neighborhood,
selling whatever it is he's selling,
looking for whoever's home with their checkbook,
we're ready to spend, more than willing
to buy the latest in magazines or
blenders, hot to give any God a chance.

In a very few words, Coffin transforms one of our great obsessions into a daily familiarity.

Lyn Coffin reads from her new collection at Shaman Drum Bookshop on Monday, December 6. —*Keith Taylor*

dents, & seniors, $5.50; MTF members, $4.75). 668–8480. Michigan Theater, 9:30 p.m.

3 FRIDAY

★**"The Unification Effect": U-M Center for European Studies.** *December 3 & 4.* A series of panel discussions by American and German scholars on the reunification of Germany. Today: **"The Rhetorics of History"** (9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.) and **"Cultures of Memory"** (2–4:30 p.m.). Tomorrow: **"Media Images of German History"** (9 a.m.–noon) and **"Reconfiguration of the Cultural Sphere"** (1:30–4 p.m.). The program also includes a screening tonight of Daniel Eisenberg's 1997 documentary ***Persistence*** (7 p.m., Angell Hall Auditorium D). *9 a.m.–4:30 p.m., 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 936–6480.*

Annual Christmas Sale: Kiwanis Club of Ann Arbor. *December 3 & 4.* This extremely popular sale features used Christmas decorations (artificial Christmas trees, tested sets of tree lights, candles, etc.), all sorts of children's games and toys, skis, skates, bicycles, sleds, books, hardware, appliances, boots, coats, and lots of good-quality furniture, from chairs and couches to lamps, desks, and cabinets. *9 a.m.–2 p.m., Kiwanis Activities Center, W. Washington at First. Free admission. 665–0450.*

★**"AIDS Awareness Week": U-M Health Services.** See 1 Wednesday. Today: all invited to help make a panel for an AIDS quilt. Materials provided. 10 a.m.–3 p.m., Michigan Union basement.

★**17th Annual Christmas Creche Display: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.** *December 3–6.* One of Ann Arbor's most popular Christmas traditions, this family-oriented exhibit is highlighted by a selection of the more than 100 creches (Nativity scenes) bequeathed to the exhibit by Catherine Carroll, the well-known local pediatrician who died in 1997. Carroll's collection features an 18th-century *presepio*, a Baroque creche tradition sustained by both the Neapolitan royalty and church that features wood-and-porcelain figures clothed in lavish miniature costumes. Overall, the exhibit includes almost 900 creches from 89 countries collected or designed by women of the church. It features rooms devoted to miniature creches and a "touch table" of unbreakable creches for children to arrange and rearrange. The creches are made of a variety of materials, including ceramics, wood, cloth, corn husks, and paper, and styles range from simple childlike figures to hand-carved traditional figures to elegant original designs. They range in size from an image inscribed on a pinhead (viewed with a magnifying glass) to creches with 18-inch figures in a French Santon village. Also, a Christmas tree decorated with handmade ornaments. Today's program includes a concert of **Christmas music** (7:30–8:30 p.m.) featuring soprano Jennifer Larson, an award-winning U-M opera student, in "Rejoice Greatly" from Handel's *Messiah* and Alfred Burt's "Some Children See Him." Also, a vocal duet on "Angels We Have Heard on High" by Rebekah Nye and Thomas Glenn, a vocal duet on "I Wonder As I Wander" by Anders and Scott Larson, an organ and piano duet on "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing" by Marilyn Roubidoux and Karen Madsen, music by flute and vocal duo Paula Fader-Garff and Suzanne Hansen, and solo performances by bass vocalist Tyler Oliphant, violist Zara Christopher, and clarinetist Barbara Clayton Stafford. *10 a.m.–9 p.m., Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1385 Green Rd. Free. 665–7852, 668–2477, 663–3699 (days).*

"Charlotte's Web": Wild Swan Theater. See 1 Wednesday. 10 a.m. and 12:30 & 7:30 p.m.

★**Kathy-jo and Ed Wargin: Arborland Borders.** Kathy-jo Wargin reads from her children's book ***The Legend of Mackinac Island,*** a retelling of the Native American story about the huge, generous turtle Makinauk. Like her last book, *The Legend of Sleeping Bear,* the book is illustrated by painter Gijsbert van Frankenhuyzen. Also, her husband, Ed Wargin, discusses ***Michigan: The Spirit of the Land,*** his photographic tour of the state, with text by his wife. Signings. *11 a.m., Borders, 3527 Washtenaw. Free. 677–6948.*

★**"Cooking from Your Cupboard": U-M Turner Geriatrics Center.** Washtenaw County Extension Service representative Christina Edge shares tips on how to replace recipe ingredients with items already in your cupboard. *Noon–1 p.m., Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 998–9353.*

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EVENTS *continued*

★Brown Bag Lecture: U-M Center for South and Southeast Asian Studies. *December 3 & 10.* Talks by U-M and visiting scholars. Bring a bag lunch; Indonesian or Thai lunch ($3.50) available, 11:45–12:15 p.m. Today: U-M history professor Rudolf Mrazek discusses **"Dialogue and Nostalgia: Trying Oral History in Indonesia."** Also this month: speaker and topic TBA (December 10). *Noon, 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 764–5261.*

★"A Holiday Evening in Saline": Saline Area Chamber of Commerce. Saline pulls out all the stops to welcome Old St. Nick with a **community tree-lighting ceremony** (6:30 p.m., intersection of Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. and Michigan Ave.), followed by a **parade** culminating in Santa's arrival (7 p.m., begins at Harris St.; west on Michigan Ave. to the tree). Other festivities include a **pre-parade party** with Mrs. Claus, merchant giveaways, and live entertainment (4:30–6:30 p.m., Saline Shopping Center near Michigan Ave. and Maple St.). Also, open houses at the Saline Depot Museum and Bixby Marionette Museum (5–7 p.m.) and sidewalk entertainment by strolling musicians, carolers, dancers, Mrs. Claus, and elves. After the parade, view live reindeer and get your photo with Santa at **Santa's Village** (8 p.m., Chamber of Commerce, 141 E. Michigan). Free shuttle buses run between sites. *4:30–9:30 p.m., downtown Saline. Free. 429–4494.*

★Open Card and Board Gaming Night: The Underworld. *Every Friday except December 24.* All invited to play any of the collectible card or board games that the Underworld carries—but you must find your own opponents. *6 p.m.–midnight, Underworld, 1202 South University. Free. 998–0547.*

★12th Annual Festival of Lights: Village of Chelsea. *December 3–5.* This popular community celebration offers a variety of family activities and festive window displays in downtown shops. Tonight: a **tree-lighting ceremony** (6:30 p.m., Pierce Park). **Santa** is available to meet kiddies and pose for photos in two places at once (6–8:30 p.m., UAW Hall and Village Plaza). Also, a **living Nativity** complete with live animals (7–8:30 p.m., next to the library), **cookie decorating** and **hayrides** (First Congregational Church, 7–9 p.m.), and woodcarving demonstrations by **Marilyn Dusbiber** (7–9 p.m., Village Shoppe). Dance Arts Performing Ensemble offers ballet excerpts from the *Nutcracker* (7–9 p.m., First Congregational Church). Finally, the community **carol sing** (9 p.m., train depot). *6–9:30 p.m., downtown Chelsea. Free. (800) 265–9045.*

★"Taste of Kerrytown": Kerrytown Shops. Kerrytown food merchants and restaurants set up outdoor grills and offer taste samples of their specialties. Also, beer and wine tasting, special sales, live entertainment, and more. *6 p.m.–midnight, Kerrytown Shops. Free. 662–5008.*

"24th Annual Cobblestone Farm Country Christmas": Ann Arbor Parks Department. *December 3 & 5.* Re-creation of a mid-19th-century Christmas, with traditional decorations, Christmas caroling, musical entertainment, craft activities for kids, and freshly baked holiday treats. Tours of the restored 1844 Ticknor-Campbell farmhouse are available. *6–9 p.m. (Dec. 3) & 1–5 p.m. (Dec. 5), Cobblestone Farm, 2781 Packard (next to Buhr Park). $2 (families, $8; children under 3, free). 994–2928.*

★"Monumental Calligraphy in Sinan's Architecture: Innovation in Form and Content": U-M Center for Middle Eastern and North African Studies. Talk about the preeminent 16th-century Ottoman architect, Mimar Sinan, by Harvard Islamic art and architecture professor Gulru Necipoglu. The talk commemorates the 700th anniversary of the beginning of the Ottoman Empire. Reception follows. *7–9:30 p.m., 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 764–0350.*

★"Maize 'n' Blue Intrasquad": U-M Men's Gymnastics. The U-M men's gymnastics team, the **defending NCAA champions,** prepares for the 1999–2000 season with an intrasquad meet. *7 p.m., Cliff Keen Arena, S. State at Hoover. Free. 764–0247.*

★Lynda Cole: "What, Then, Is Time?": Michigan Guild Gallery. Opening reception for this local artist's multimedia installation examining time (see Galleries listing). *7–9 p.m., Michigan Guild Gallery, 118 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 662–3382.*

Dances of Universal Peace (Sufi Dancing). All invited to join in simple dancing to chants and songs from various spiritual and religious traditions. Beginners welcome. *7–9 p.m., Friends Meetinghouse, 1420 Hill St. $5 requested donation. 996–1332.*

★"Holidays and Dances from Around the World": Ann Arbor YMCA. An evening of ethnic dances, food, crafts, and festivities. Also, an open

swim, open gym, dance demos and lessons, and more. *7–9 p.m., YMCA, 350 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 663–0536.*

★**"Festive Friday Holiday Nights": Main Street Area Association.** *December 3, 10, & 17.* Sidewalk-strolling entertainers include Livonia **organ grinders Nan & John Flint,** the **Harmony 4 Fun quartet**, the **Arbor Consort** in Renaissance costume, and local **bagpiper Herm Steinman.** Additional performers: the **County Connection Sweet Adelines chorus** (December 3), the **Choral Connection chorus** (December 10), and the **Willow Run Jazz Band** (December 17). Many stores open late with special sales. Also, horse-drawn carriages pick up passengers at the corner of South University and East University and at the corner of State and North University for an **old-fashioned carriage ride around the Diag** (December 3, 6–9 p.m.; donations accepted for the Neutral Zone teen center). Visitors can donate a toy for needy children today and during the parade (see December 5 listing) at the SOS drop box at 306 S. Main (next to Jules furniture). *7–9 p.m., downtown area bounded by Main, Liberty, Washington, and Fourth Ave. Free. 668–7112.*

★**Caroling Party: Kempf House Center for Local History.** All invited to gather at this historic home and warm up your voices around the newly tuned 1877 Steinway piano before heading out into the streets to sing Christmas carols accompanied by the Salvation Army brass band. Carolers then return to the Kempf House for hot cider and cookies. *7 p.m., Kempf House, 312 S. Division. Free. 994–4898.*

★**"Music in the Cafe": Arborland Borders.** Folk-flavored country and gospel versions of favorite Christmas songs performed by Grass Lake folksinger **Katie Geddes** and **The Usual Suspects.** *7 p.m., Borders, 3527 Washtenaw. Free. 677–6948.*

"Peter and the Wolf": EMU Dance Department. *One night only.* EMU dance students perform this classic folk tale, with narration, set to a recording of the familiar Prokofiev score. Choreography by EMU dance professor Sherry Jerome. Also, this afternoon, an additional free performance especially for kids, with live music by the EMU Symphony (12:15 p.m., Pease Auditorium). *7 p.m., 106 Warner, next to Bowen Field House on the EMU campus, Ypsilanti. $3 (children, free). 487–0090.*

★**"Flesh and Blood": U-M Basement Arts Theater.** *December 3 & 4.* U-M student Sarah Bonfiglio directs Elizabeth Dewberry's dark comedy about a family whipping up a "killer" potato salad that proves to be a recipe for disaster. *7 & 11 p.m., Arena Stage (Frieze basement), 105 S. State St. Free. 764–6800.*

Weekly Meeting: U-M Duplicate Bridge Club. *Every Friday except December 24 & 31.* All invited to play this tournament form of contract bridge in which identical hands are played by every table in order to compare individual scores. *7:30 p.m., Michigan Union Tap Room. $2 (students, $1). 996–1433.*

22nd Annual Boar's Head Festival: Concordia College. *December 3–5.* A cast of more than 100 Concordia students and staff and area children presents this traditional pageant allegorizing Christ's victory over the power of sin and death. Originating in medieval England and celebrated for centuries at Cambridge and Oxford, the Boar's Head festival is a spectacle that combines religious pageantry and secular pomp, with musical narration and full orchestra. It offers vividly dressed Beefeaters, hunters, jesters, and other medieval court characters, as well as traditional Christmas shepherds and magi. The peak of the festival is the presentation of a roasted wild boar. The ferocious beast came to symbolize Satan, and its slaying represented the triumph of good over evil. A holiday dinner is served before tomorrow's performance. This hugely popular event sells out well in advance year after year, so get your tickets early. *7:30 p.m. (Dec. 3 & 4) & 4 p.m. (Dec. 5), Concordia College Chapel of the Holy Trinity, 4090 Geddes at Earhart. Tickets $10 (ages 18 & under, $6; December 4 dinner & performance, $35) in advance at the Kreft Center box office. 995–4612.*

★**Advanced Study Group: Rudolf Steiner Study Circle of Ann Arbor.** *December 3 & 17.* All invited to join this ongoing study group to discuss Rudolf Steiner's book *Macrocosm and Microcosm.* Familiarity with Steiner's basic ideas required. *8–9:30 p.m., 33 Ridgeway (one block east of the Arb entrance on Geddes). Free. 662–6398.*

★**Angell Hall Observatory Open House: U-M Student Astronomical Society.** All invited to peer through the telescope on the Angell Hall roof to examine interesting and sublime celestial bodies, such as galaxy clusters and the thin crescent moon (new on December 7). Members of the U-M Student Astronomical Society on hand to answer questions. *8–10 p.m., fifth-floor rooftop observatory, Angell Hall (from the large State St. entrance, take one of the elevators on the left to the fifth floor). Free. 936–3626.*

"Drum Circle." *Every Friday except December 24.* A blend of celebration, exploration, and meditation through drumming, voice, and dance. Beginners welcome. All invited. *8–10 p.m., Gallup Park meeting room (next to the canoe livery), 3000 Fuller Rd. (west side of Huron Pkwy.). $2 donation.*

★**"An Evening of Sufi Chanting, Meditation, and Association": Haqqani Foundation.** *Every Friday.* All invited to join a program of chanting and meditation based on the traditional Naqshbandi spiritual path as taught by Grandshaykh Muhammad Nazim al-Haqqani, a Sufi master who lives in Cyprus. *8–10 p.m., Guild House, 802 Monroe at Oakland. Free. 665–2670.*

First Friday Square and Contra Dance. Dancing to live music by Licketysplit, with local caller John Freeman. All dances taught; beginners and older children welcome. No partner necessary. *8–11 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (1/2 mile south of I-94). $6 (children, $3) at the door. 665–8405.*

★**Jaimy Gordon and Bonnie Campbell: Shaman Drum Bookshop.** These 2 fiction writers read from powerfully etched portraits of women. Gordon's ***Bogeywoman*** is a darkly comic coming-of-age tale about a teenage girl who falls in love with her female psychiatrist. Campbell's ***Women and Other Animals*** is a collection of 16 stories, all set in Michigan, about women who resist threats to their identities and struggle to follow their instincts. Signing, refreshments. *8 p.m., Shaman Drum Bookshop, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.*

★**Madrigal Concert: American Guild of Organists.** A cappella concert of early Renaissance madrigals by the **Monroe High School Madrigal Singers,** directed by John Tyner. All welcome. *8 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. Free. 663–0518.*

"AB2K": Amazin' Blue (University Activities Center). Concert by this popular U-M student a cappella chorus. *8 p.m., Rackham Auditorium. $6. 763–1107.*

"Britten Extravaganza II": Ann Arbor Festival of Song. Concert of Benjamin Britten's vocal music performed by an ensemble of local pianist Kevin Bylsma, Grand Rapids soprano Lisa VanHouten Walhout, and current and former U-M music students, including tenors Brian Pfaltzgraff and Chris Meerdink and bass-baritone Allen Schrott. Program: *Michelangelo Sonnets* and *Canticle II (Abraham and Isaac). 8 p.m., Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $7 (students, $5). Reservations suggested. 769–2999.*

The Paperboys: The Ark. This popular Vancouver quintet plays traditional fiddle-driven Celtic dance music and pop-rock originals in the traditional style with a hyperkinetic rock 'n' roll verve—a combination the band has dubbed "stomp" music. Led by singer-guitarist Tom Landa, the band won a 1997 Juno Award for its debut CD, *Molinos. 8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $12.50 in advance at Borders on Liberty, Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, and all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

"Rant and Rage: New Dance from Irish Paintings": U-M Museum of Art. *December 3 & 4.* U-M dance student choreographers and local dancers TBA perform dances on themes inspired by the current UMMA exhibit of contemporary Irish paintings, including religion, love of the land, and the lives of women. *8 p.m., U-M Dance Bldg. Betty Pease Studio Theater, 1310 North University Ct. (behind the CCRB near Washtenaw Ave. and Geddes). $5 (members, free). 764–0395.*

"A Woman Called Truth": EMU Theater of the Young. *December 3 & 4.* EMU drama professor Patricia Moore Zimmer directs EMU students in Sandra Fenichel Asher's award-winning family-oriented drama celebrating the courage and wit of Sojourner Truth, the ex-slave who became a leading abolitionist orator and women's rights advocate. Aimed at theatergoers ages 11 & older. *8 p.m., Quirk Theater, Ford St., EMU campus, Ypsilanti. (Take Huron River Dr. east to Lowell St. Take Lowell to Ford St. and turn right onto Ford. The theater is on the left, with parking on the right.) Tickets $6 (Thurs.), $11 (Fri. & Sat. evenings), $9 (Sat. & Sun. matinees) in advance; $8 (Thurs.), $13 (Fri. & Sat. evenings), $11 (Sat. & Sun. matinees) at the door. Group discounts available. 487–1221.*

★**"Staten Island": U-M Residential College Players.** *December 3 & 4.* RC students present Ann Arbor native Ben Graham's new play, a comic drama about a 1st-generation Italian American family coming of age in New York City. *8 p.m., RC Auditorium, East Quad, 701 East University. Free. 763–0176.*

"Damien": The Stage Presence, Ltd. See 2 Thursday. 8 p.m.

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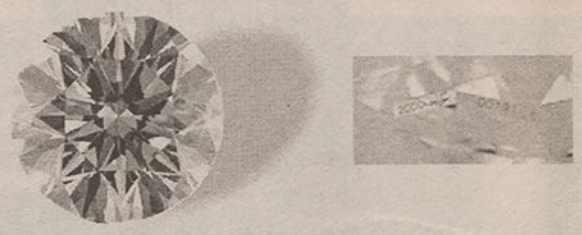

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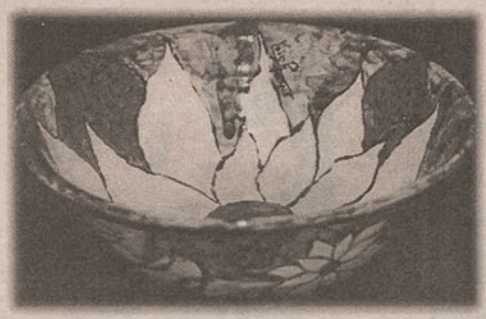

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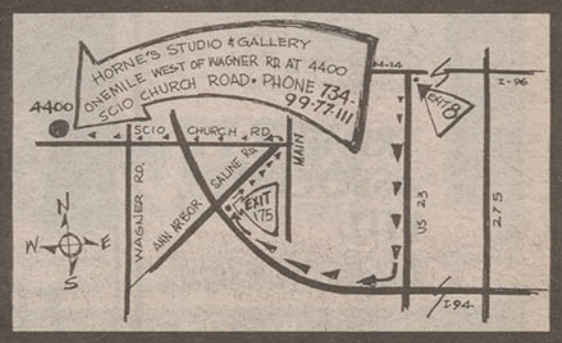

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Leo Whelan *Reverie* (detail), oil on canvas, ca. 1920, Joseph M. and JoAnn Murphy

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Pablo Picasso, *Woman with Hairnet*, September 1956

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The Toledo Museum of Art

EVENTS *continued*

U-M Gilbert and Sullivan Society. See 2 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Angels in America": Ann Arbor Civic Theater. See 2 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Not Waving": Performance Network Professional Season. See 2 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Jim Dailakis: Mainstreet Comedy Showcase. See 2 Thursday. 8:30 & 10:45 p.m.

Strangefolk: Prism Productions. Semiacoustic jam-oriented rock 'n' roll by this Vermont quartet known for its catchy melodies, soaring guitars, tight ensemble playing, and well-crafted folk-rock songs that blend blues, bluegrass, and folk elements. They recently released their Mammoth debut CD, *Weightless in Water. 10:30 p.m. (doors open at 9 p.m.), The Blind Pig, 208 S. First. Tickets $8 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and all other Ticketmaster outlets; $10 at the door. To charge by phone, call (248) 645–6666; for information, call 996–8555.*

FILMS

M-FLICKS. "Eve's Bayou" (Kasi Lemmons, 1997). Penetrating psychological portrait, set in a small southern town in the 50s, of a picture-perfect black doctor's family whose members are all wrestling with poisonous and guilty secrets. Cost TBA. 763–1107. Natural Science auditorium, 830 North University, 7 & 9:30 p.m. **MTF. "Princess Mononoke"** (Hayao Miyazaki, 1999). See 2 Thursday. Mich., 7 & 9:45 p.m. **U-M Center for Chinese Studies. "Life on a String"** (Chen Kaige, 1991). Mythological tale about a young blind man who devotes himself to playing the banjo when his master tells him that after he has broken 1,000 strings, his banjo will show him how to restore his sight. Mandarin, subtitles. No children under 12 admitted. FREE. 764–6308. Angell Hall Auditorium A, 8 p.m. **U-M Center for Japanese Studies. "Dr. Akagi"** (Shohei Imamura, 1998). Gallows-humor comedy, set in a village near Hiroshima on the eve of the Japanese surrender, about Dr. Akagi and a band of misfits fighting a hepatitis epidemic ravaging the town. Japanese, subtitles. FREE. 764–6307. Lorch Hall, 611 Tappan, 7 p.m.

4 SATURDAY

★**"Washtenaw County Gulls": Washtenaw Audubon Society.** WAS member Rob French leads a trip (in the WAS field trip van) to the Arbor Hills Landfill in Salem Township, and possibly other area sites, to look for unusual gulls. 9 gull species have been spotted in the county in recent years. *8 a.m., meet at Pittsfield School, 2543 Pittsfield Blvd. Free. Limited to 10 participants; preregistration required. 994–8418.*

★**T'ai Chi Ch'uan.** *Every Saturday & Sunday except December 25.* All invited to learn this traditional Chinese low-impact, meditative exercise, led by former Baoding Qigong Research Institute teacher Gabriel Chin. *8–9:15 a.m., U-M Central Campus open area next to the Cube (between the Michigan Union and Fleming Administration Bldg.). Free. 975–4633.*

★**"December Bird Walk": Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission.** December's leaf-stripped trees mean good birding, and WCPARC naturalist Faye Stoner leads a walk down the boardwalk along ice-jeweled Fleming Creek to a bird blind overlooking the Huron River. Bring binoculars and bird books. *9–11 a.m., Parker Mill County Park parking lot, Geddes Rd. (just east of US-23). Free. 971–6337.*

Craft Show: Saline Middle School. Over 100 craftpersons from around the Midwest display and sell their stoneware, ceramics, rugs, birdhouses, holiday decorations, calligraphy, clothing, painting, and more. Some works can be customized or personalized. Also, baked goods, Christmas greens, flowers, and concessions for sale. No strollers. *9 a.m.–4 p.m., Saline Middle School, 7265 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (past Woodland Dr., before Tower Dr., on the left), Saline. $2 admission. 429–5922.*

"Holidaze Bazaar": Dexter Historical Society. *December 4 & 5.* Sale of decorations, toys, gifts, mittens, hats, holiday crafts for Easter, Halloween, and Christmas, and a bake sale. Proceeds benefit Dexter's historical museum. *9 a.m.–3 p.m. (Dec. 4), 1 p.m.–3 p.m. (Dec. 5), Dexter Area Museum, 3443 Inverness (take Ann Arbor–Dexter Rd. to Dexter, turn right on Inverness). Free admission. 741–1877, 426–2519.*

★**12th Annual Festival of Lights: Village of Chelsea.** See 3 Friday. Today: a visit from **Santa** and a **Yule Tree Gala** (noon–5 p.m., Chelsea Center for the Development of the Arts), a candlelight **home tour** (4 p.m., $15), and a **seasonal concert**

(7:30 p.m., Chelsea High School). Also, live music and other festivities throughout the downtown, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

Annual Holiday Bazaar and Children's Festival: Rudolf Steiner School. Sale of handmade toys and ornaments made by school parents according to Rudolf Steiner's educational principles, a bake sale, and a large silent auction of art items and gift certificates. Also, a bookstore featuring Steiner's anthroposophical writings; a children's activity corner where kids can make beeswax candles and decorate cookies; and a kids-only gift room, with gifts priced for children's budgets. Caroling, hot cider, tea room, lasagna lunch, and entertainment, including a children's theater and performance cafe. Faculty and staff are on hand to answer questions about the school. *9:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m., Rudolf Steiner School, 2775 Newport Rd. Free admission. 995–4141.*

★**"Winter Democratic Rides": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** *Every Saturday & Sunday.* The assembled riders choose their own pace, distance, and destination. *Note*: Riders should be prepared to take care of themselves on all AABTS rides. Carry a water bottle, a spare tire or tube, a pump, change for a phone call, and snacks. *10 a.m. (Saturdays only) & 1 p.m. (both days), meet at Wheeler Park, N. Fourth Ave. at Depot St. Free. 913–9851.*

★**"TU-SHEA."** *December 4 & 5.* Show and sale of local artist Kathleen Shea's ceramics and oil paintings (see Galleries listing). *10 a.m.–6 p.m. (Dec. 4), noon–5 p.m. (Dec. 5), 2820 Canterbury Rd. (off Platt at Huron Pkwy.). Free. 973–6324.*

Winter Sale: Ann Arbor Fiberarts Guild. *December 4 & 5.* Handwoven clothing, basketry, toys, beadwork, handmade paper, felting, hangings, yarns and quilts. Proceeds from ornament sales to benefit Safe House. Also, fiberarts technique demonstrations. *10 a.m.–4 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free admission. 429–9205, 971–0165.*

Annual Holiday Sale: Ann Arbor Potters Guild. *December 4 & 5.* A popular annual sale held in a heated tent outdoors. Some 40 local artists offer a large selection of functional and decorative ceramics, in porcelain and both red and white stoneware clays. Also, a children's corner, with gifts priced for their budgets. Items go fast—arrive early for the best selection. *10 a.m.–5 p.m., 201 Hill St. Free admission. 663–4970.*

Annual Holiday Book Shop: Friends of the Ann Arbor District Library. For holiday gift shoppers, a wide selection of used books that look new, including *The I Could Eat Pasta Every Night Cookbook,* the Jan Pienkowski pop-up book *Robot,* a beautifully illustrated book on the art of Gustav Klimt, *The Kitchen Chronicles: 1001 Lunches with J. Krishnamurti,* and for something completely un–Ann Arboreal, Barbara Holland's *Endangered Pleasures: In Defense of Naps, Bacon, Martinis, Profanity & Other Indulgences.* A separate room with children's books in mint condition (limit of 3 children's books per family) includes everything from *The Armadillo from Amarillo* and *Winnie the Pooh* (in Hungarian) to Calvin & Hobbes and Garfield comic books. Also, Christmas records. Proceeds to support library projects. *Note:* The Book Shop is also open on December 5, 11, & 12. *10 a.m.–4 p.m., AADL lower level, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Wheelchair-accessible. Free admission. 994–2333.*

★**"Holiday Open House": Wild Birds Unlimited.** A series of 15-minute talks by Wild Birds Unlimited staff, including "Squirrel-Proofing Your Bird Feeder" (11 a.m.), "Decorating a Holiday Tree for Birds" (2 p.m.), "Setting Up a Winter Feeding Program" (3 p.m.), and "How to Select Binoculars for Nature Viewing" (4 p.m.). Also, at 1 p.m. a Washtenaw Audubon Society member discusses and signs up volunteers for the WAS Christmas Bird Count (see 18 Saturday listing). Refreshments. *10 a.m.–6 p.m., Wild Birds Unlimited, 2204 S. Main at Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free. 665–7427.*

★**"The World Trade Organization Summit in Seattle": Gray Panthers of Huron Valley.** Rachel Edelman, a U-M student activist who coordinated the local anti-sweatshop campaign, reviews the results of the WTO proceedings earlier this week. Refreshments. All invited. *10 a.m.–noon, Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 663–6248.*

"Drop-In Gift Making": The Scrap Box. *December 4, 11, & 18.* Scrap Box staff members lead half-hour gift-making craft projects for kids of kindergarten age and older. *10 a.m.–1:30 p.m., The Scrap Box, 581 State Circle. $3. 994–0012.*

★**17th Annual Christmas Creche Display: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.** See 3 Friday. 10 a.m.–9 p.m.

★**"Arb Walk": Grex.** *Every Saturday except December 25.* All invited to join members of this local computer-conferencing group for a walk from Gallup Park through the U-M Arboretum. *10:15 a.m., meet in Gallup Park parking lot, 3000 Fuller Rd. (west side of Huron Pkwy.). Free. 930–6564.*

"Adventures in Autumn: Mythical Skies & Mesmerizing Science"/"Season of Light": U-M Exhibit Museum Planetarium. *Every Saturday & Sunday through December 12. Adventures in Autumn: Mythical Skies & Mesmerizing Science* (11:30 a.m. Saturdays and 1:30 & 3:30 p.m. both days) is an audiovisual exploration of the stars and planets currently visible in the sky, with an emphasis on the myths associated with them. *Season of Light* (10:30 a.m. & 12:30 p.m. Saturdays and 2:30 p.m. both days) is an audiovisual show about various ancient and modern solstice celebrations, including Christmas and Hanukkah. *Note:* A new planetarium show opens December 18 (see listing). *10:30 & 11:30 a.m. and 12:30, 1:30, 2:30, & 3:30 p.m., U-M Exhibit Museum, North University at Geddes Ave. $3 (seniors & children 12 & under, $2). 764–0478.*

★**"The Milky Way": U-M Physics Department "Saturday Morning Physics."** *November 20 and December 4 & 11.* U-M astronomy professor **Robbie Dohm-Palmer** discusses the centuries-old struggle to explain this luminous lane, the subject both of ancient myth and of modern research on galactic cannibalism, ominous dark clouds, and stellar nurseries. Part of a popular semester-long series *(see "Secret Singles Society?" Up Front, p. 11)* of talks on cutting-edge research by U-M physicists aimed at general audiences. Breakfast refreshments. *10:30–11:30 a.m., 170 Dennison, 501 East University. Free. 764–4437.*

★**"Mornings, Mochas, & Melodies": GoodArts (Aurora Borealis Productions).** *Every Saturday except December 25.* A series of concerts featuring local and visiting musicians. Today: holiday harp music by **Laurel Federbush.** Also this month: Celtic and old-time tunes by the **Chelsea House Orchestra** (December 11) and folk and country by **Loyse** (December 18). Also, Classical, Baroque, and Christmas guitar music by **Geoffrey Esty** (December 18, 12:30 p.m.). *10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m., Pierce's Pastries Plus, 103 W. Middle St., Chelsea. Free. 327–2041.*

Draw Doubles: Ann Arbor Area Disc Induced Sports Club. *Every Saturday except December 25.* All invited to play disc golf at Hudson Mills Metropark's 18-hole disc golf course. Disc golf is a popular sport played with a Frisbee-like disc; the goal is to land the disc in a "pole hole" in the fewest shots. In draw doubles play, beginners are paired with advanced players to create parity. Prizes. Golf discs available free from the Hudson Mills Metropark office. *11 a.m., Hudson Mills Metropark Activity Center, 8801 North Territorial Rd. (between Dexter-Pinckney Rd. & Huron River Dr.), Dexter. $4 per player; free for spectators. (Park entry fee: $3 per vehicle.) 996–0212, 434–1615.*

★**"Dinosaur Discovery Day": U-M Exhibit Museum Discovery Day.** This family-oriented dinosaur program includes hands-on activities for kids, demonstrations, and more. *11 a.m.–4 p.m., U-M Exhibit Museum, North University at Geddes Ave. Free. 764–0478.*

★**"Children's Hour": Liberty Borders.** *Every Saturday except December 25.* Borders staff and guests read stories and lead activities for kids ages 4–10. Today: Ann Arbor storyteller and poet Dianne Baker tells kids holiday stories. Also this month: two chances to make holiday crafts with **ArtVentures** (December 11 & 18). *11 a.m., Borders, 612 E. Liberty. Free. 668–7652.*

★**"Children's Storytime": Westgate Nicola's Books.** *Every Saturday except December 25.* Tales and activities for kids ages 4–10. Eric Engel or Pam "Mama Moon" Crisovan, both local professional storytellers and members of the Ann Arbor Storytellers' Guild, present multicultural stories. Also, post-storytime visits at 1 p.m., December 4 & 11, from the **"Snowflake Doctor" Thomas Clark,** who creates unbelievably intricate and lovely cut-paper snowflakes. Children ages 8 & older and adults are welcome to bring sharp scissors for a hands-on demo today at the Westgate Nicola's and December 11 at the Traver Village Nicola's, 2607 Plymouth Rd. *11 a.m.–noon, Nicola's Books, Westgate Shopping Center. Free. 662–4110.*

"Y1.9K: Music from the Previous Turn of the Century": Kerrytown Concert House "Croissant Concert." A popular holiday tradition featuring **Today's Brass Quintet,** an ensemble of area professional musicians that today performs works by Edward Elgar, Jean Sibelius, Scott Joplin, and others. The program concludes with a rousing sing-along of the "Hallelujah" chorus from Handel's *Messiah* (music provided). Quintet members are French hornist Steven Mumford, trombonist Brian Robson, tubaist Joseph DeMarsh, and trumpeters Jean Moorehead Libs and David Ammer, who also offer commentary about the composers and works. Crois-

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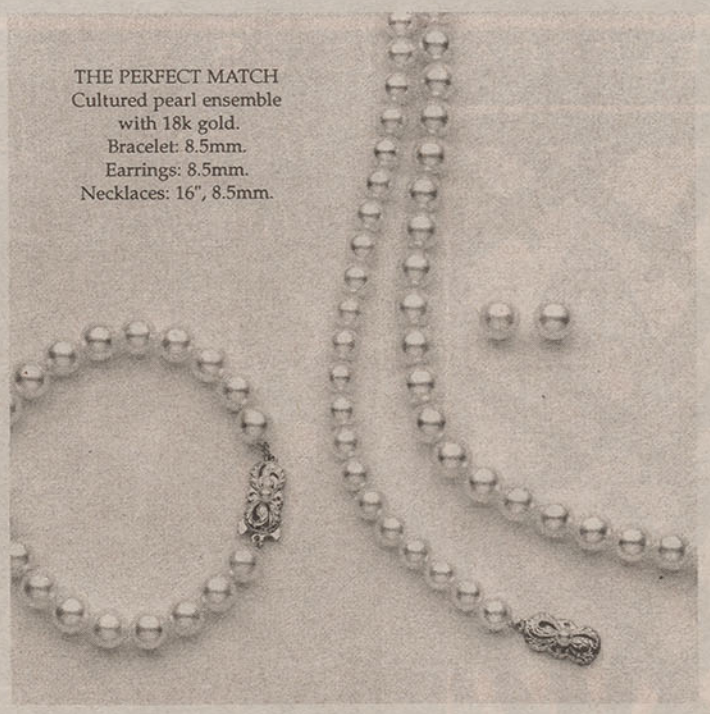

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sants, coffee, and juice served. *11 a.m., Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $9 & $12. Reservations suggested. 769–2999.*

★**Open Studios: Broad Street Artists Collective.** All invited to tour the studios of metalsmith Elizabeth Fall, jeweler Shirley Moraes, painters Alan Potter and Elaine Wilson, and ceramists Yiu-Keung Lee and Annette Siffin. Also, sale of artworks. Refreshments. *Noon–5 p.m., Broad Street Artists, 3045 Broad St., Dexter. Free. 426–4228, 426–5415.*

★**"Dexter's Victorian Christmas": Dexter Area Chamber of Commerce.** *December 4 & 11.* The Dexter of days gone by is resurrected as actors, carolers, and other musicians dressed in Victorian costume stroll the streets, and merchants dressed in period costume host special open houses. Mail letters to Santa in a special mailbox and a reply is guaranteed. Horse-drawn sleigh rides ($2) available throughout the day, with extra evening sleigh rides December 4 (5–8 p.m.). Also, Civil War reenactments, and Father Christmas holds court in the Dexter park gazebo. Other entertainment TBA. *11 a.m.–5 p.m., downtown Dexter. Free admission. 426–5514.*

"Memories of a German Christmas": Waterloo Area Farm Museum. *December 4 & 5.* This mid-19th century German immigrant family's pioneer homestead comes alive with the sights, sounds, and smells of a rural 1880s Michigan Christmas. Natural decorations of cedar, pine cones, nuts, and herbs festoon the main house, where guides in period costume explain the typical holiday preparations that would have been going on in each room. Christmas music tinkles from the parlor melodeon as aromas of wild game, squash, and potatoes waft from the kitchen's wood stove. Hot spiced cider and cookies available in the farm's separate log cabin, decorated 1850s style. Also, a gift shop with old-fashioned toys, books, handmade soaps and candles, and other stocking stuffers. *Noon–5 p.m., Waterloo Area Farm Museum, 9998 Waterloo-Munith Rd., Waterloo Recreation Area, Jackson. (Take I-94 west to exit 153 and follow Clear Lake Rd. to Waterloo Village.) $1 admission. 426–9135.*

★**Holiday Entertainment Series: Briarwood Mall.** *December 4, 5, 11, 12, 18, & 19.* A family-oriented entertainment series. Today and December 11 & 18: strolling carolers in Victorian costume. Also this month: a **Holiday Magic Show** by a visiting magician TBA (December 5, 2–2:45 & 3:15–4 p.m.), holiday music by the steel drum ensemble **Gratitude** (December 12, 2–4 p.m.), and traditional seasonal music by the **Johnny Trudell Orchestra** (December 19, 2–4 p.m.). Santa is on hand to meet with youngsters (10 a.m.–9 p.m. Monday–Saturday; 11 a.m.–6 p.m. Sundays). Those who write a letter to Santa and deposit it in the mall's special mailbox by December 14 receive a personalized response. *Noon–4 p.m., Briarwood Mall Grand Court. Free. 769–9610.*

★**Creative Expressions Group: Ozone House.** *Every Saturday except December 25.* Drop-in group for gay teens, teens of gay parents, and straight friends to participate in art projects, discussion, and fun. *1–4 p.m., Ozone House, 1705 Washtenaw. Free. For information, call Connie at 975–9841 or E-mail creative.expressions@juno.com.*

★**Open House: U-M James D. Reader Urban Environmental Education Center.** *December 4, 5, 11, & 12.* Drop-in center for Nichols Arboretum maps and educational displays about the birds, flowers, and trees in the Arb. *1–4 p.m., Environmental Center at Burnham House, 1610 Washington Heights at Observatory. Free. 998–9540.*

★**"Bravo: Recipes, Legends, & Lore": Traver Village Nicola's Books.** *December 4 & 12 (different Nicola's locations).* A cook TBA demonstrates some of the dishes from *Bravo,* a new collection of recipes published by the University Musical Society that also includes essays on key UMS concerts over the past 120 years and delightful anecdotes about legendary musicians who have performed under UMS auspices. *1 p.m., Nicola's Books in Traver Village Shopping Center (Dec. 4) & in Westgate Shopping Center (Dec. 12). Free. 662–4110.*

German Family Christmas: Kempf House Center for Local History. *December 4, 5, 11, & 12.* This restored 19th-century Greek Revival home is decked out with decorations and exhibits reflecting a typical turn-of-the-century German-American celebration of Christmas. *1–4 p.m., Kempf House, 312 S. Division. $1. 994–4898.*

★**"Holiday Time": Friends of the Ann Arbor District Library.** Concert of pop and jazz seasonal standards by the highly regarded local jazz pianist **Rick Roe.** *1–3 p.m., AADL lobby, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4282.*

Creation Station: Artrain USA. *December 4, 5, 11, & 12.* Kids invited to make their own take-home artworks, possibly inspired by the free *Artistry of Space* exhibit aboard the Ann Arbor–based Artrain, the nation's only traveling art museum on a train. Featuring art from the NASA and National Air and Space Museum collections, the Artrain is parked at its national headquarters at the NEW Center (see Galleries listing) on December 4, 5, 11, & 12 (11 a.m.–6 p.m.). *1 p.m.–5 p.m., NEW Center, 1100 N. Main. $1. 747–8300, ext. 222.*

U-M Men's Basketball vs. Chattanooga. *2 p.m., Crisler Arena. $12 & $15. 764–0247.*

★**Museum on Main Street Open House: Washtenaw County Historical Society.** The WCHS museum is decked out for the holidays. Displays of antique toys. Old-fashioned refreshments. *2–5 p.m., 500 N. Main. Free. 662–9092.*

★**"Holy Night of Birth": Insight Gallery (Sylvia's Attic).** *December 4, 11, & 18.* Slide-illustrated talk celebrating childbirth by local photographer Harriette Hartigan. Followed by Q&A. Also, this gallery inside Sylvia's Attic hosts an exhibit of Hartigan's childbirth photos (see Galleries listing). Event and exhibit not recommended for children 14 and under. *2–3 p.m., Insight Gallery (Sylvia's Attic), 2296 S. Industrial. Free. Preregistration required. 214–9088, 677–0519.*

★**Christmas Party & Open House: Evangel Temple Assembly of God.** All invited to make Christmas ornaments, enjoy refreshments, kids videos, games and prizes, and more family fun. *2–4 p.m., Evangel Temple Assembly of God, 2455 Washtenaw. Free. 769–4157.*

★**Children's Events: Arborland Borders.** *December 4, 11, 18, & 19.* Activity sessions for kids, with crafts, music, or costume characters. Today: kids can make a picture frame with **ArtVentures** staff. Also this month: kids can paint their own Christmas ornament with local pottery-painting studio **Feat of Clay** members (December 11), and a chance for parents to take photos of their kids visiting with Santa (December 18 & 19). *2 p.m., Borders, 3527 Washtenaw. Free. Preregistration required for ornament painting. 677–6948.*

"Charlotte's Web": Wild Swan Theater. See 1 Wednesday. 2 p.m.

"A Woman Called Truth": EMU Theater of the Young. See 3 Friday. 2:30 p.m.

★**Hidden Lake Gardens Hike: Sierra Club.** A leisurely hike through these gardens near Tecumseh, followed by a stop at a holiday bazaar and luminaria display. *3 p.m., meet at City Hall parking lot to carpool. Free. 994–7183.*

★**Chamber Recital: U-M School of Music.** U-M music students perform works from the string quartet repertory. *3 p.m., U-M Music School Recital Hall, 1100 Baits Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764–0594.*

31st Annual Holiday Ballet: Ypsilanti Area Dancers. *December 4 & 5.* This local company of children and adult dancers directed by Marjorie Randazzo and Sara Randazzo-Rodriguez performs a program highlighted by Randazzo-Rodriguez's *Tribute to Duke Ellington.* With guest performers the **Sole Full of Rhythm Tap Ensemble** and the **Rick Roe Trio,** a local jazz ensemble led by pianist Roe that also includes bassist Paul Keller, drummer Gerald Cleaver, and guest vocalist Kathy Kosins. Other dances include a suite of children's songs and dances titled *Childhood Melodies,* the "Peasant Dance" from Jean Coralli and Jules Perrot's ballet *Giselle,* and "Gypsy Dance" from Prokofiev's ballet *Stone Flower. 3 p.m., Ypsilanti High School, 2095 Packard. Tickets $10 (children 12 & under, $5) in advance at Dancer's Boutique (2414 E. Stadium Blvd.), the Salvation Army (100 Arbana), and Norton-Durant Flowers (115 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti); and at the door. 482–8559.*

★**"Tabletop Fountain Class": Aqua-Tec.** All invited to learn how to make one of these decorative dish arrangements of rocks and plants with a small fountain. *4 p.m., Aqua-Tec, 1818 Packard. Free. Preregistration required. 769–8221.*

★**Winter Concert: U-M Gospel Chorale.** Concert of Christmas and gospel music by this U-M student vocal ensemble, accompanied by U-M music school and area high school musicians. The program features "Deliverance," a gospel song written by Gospel Chorale director John Daniels. *4 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw. Free. 662–4466.*

★**"Animania Apocalypse": U-M Japanese Animation Film Society.** Monthly 6-hour festival of Japanese animation. The fall series concludes with episodes from the vibrant comedy-fantasy *Card Captor Sakura,* the medieval fantasy-adventure *Sorcerous Stabber Orphan,* and the cute, post-apocalyptic *Hyper Police.* After a dinner break, the comedy

His and Her Situation, the sword and sorcery epic *Berserk,* and more. Japanese, subtitles. Raffle. Also, sale of T-shirts. *U-M campus admission policy:* No one under 18 admitted without an adult. *4 p.m.–midnight (intermission at 7:15 p.m.), MLB 3, 812 E. Washington at Thayer. Free. For more information, E-mail animania@umich.edu, or visit the website at www.umich.edu/~animania.*

★**Open House: University Lowbrow Astronomers.** *December 4 & 11.* A chance to join local astronomy buffs for a look at the sky through instruments at the Peach Mountain Observatory. The observatory's huge, 24-inch McMath telescope is operational, but participants are nevertheless encouraged to bring their own telescopes. Visitors must turn off all electronic equipment (car radios, transmitters, cellular phones, etc.) at the observatory entrance. Program canceled if sky is overcast at sunset. *5 p.m.–12:30 a.m. (as long as the sky remains clear), Peach Mountain Observatory, North Territorial Rd. (about 1 1/4 miles west of Hudson Mills Metropark). Free. 480–4514.*

1st Annual Family Hanukkah Party: Jewish Community Center. Activities include a kosher dinner, games, a sing-along, Israeli dancing, dancing for teens, a Havdallah service, and more. All invited. *6 p.m., Jewish Community Center, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). $5 (JCC members, $3). 971–0990.*

"An Evening on the Emerald Isle": 23rd Annual St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Holiday Ball. A gala evening featuring lavish decorations of emerald green, gold, and crystal that reflect an Irish theme. Includes cocktails and a gourmet dinner, followed by ballroom dancing to The People's Choice orchestra. This annual fund-raiser is one of the largest and most successful in the country. Proceeds benefit the hospital's Campaign for Women's Health. *Note:* All ball decorations, including Christmas trees, wreaths, and table linens, are for sale (call for information). *6:30 p.m.–1 a.m., Michigan League. $1,000 per couple. For reservations, call 712–3192.*

"Holiday Party": Ann Arbor Ski Club. All invited to a festive, elegant evening of cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, a buffet dinner, dessert, and dancing to music by DJ Dale Williams. Please bring a new, wrapped gift, to be donated to a local senior citizens' home. *6:30 p.m., Crowne Plaza Hotel, 610 Hilton Blvd. $58 (members, $50). Preregistration required. (810) 225–1430.*

U-M Ice Hockey vs. Bowling Green. *7 p.m., Yost Ice Arena, 1016 S. State at McKinley. $10–$17. 764–0247.*

★**Open Role-Playing Gaming Night: The Underworld.** *Every Saturday except December 25.* All invited to play any of the role-playing games that the Underworld carries, but you must find your own opponents. *7 p.m.–midnight, The Underworld, 1202 South University. Free. 998–0547.*

★**"Flesh and Blood": U-M Basement Arts Theater.** See 3 Friday. 2 & 7 p.m.

★**"Comedy Company with Pete Lipsey": U-M Comedy Company (University Activities Center).** A variety of original comedy sketches by this popular U-M student comedy troupe, with guest comedian Pete Lipsey. *Evening time TBA, Michigan Union U-Club. Free. 763–1107.*

★**Ecumenical Service: U-M Campus Chapel.** This service features singing of meditative music from the ecumenical community of Taize, France. The service also includes prayer, meditation, readings, silence, and Holy Communion. All invited. *7:30 p.m., U-M Campus Chapel, 1236 Washtenaw Ct. (off Washtenaw, 1 block south of Geddes). Free. 995–0169.*

"Christmas at Our Place": Varsity Blues and Company. *December 4 & 5.* This Saline-area youth company performs a musical revue of seasonal songs, skits, and dance. Includes a visit from **Santa** and an audience sing-along. *7:30 p.m., Saline High School Auditorium, 7190 N. Maple Rd., Saline. Tickets $5 at the door only. 429–2920.*

22nd Annual Boar's Head Festival: Concordia College. See 3 Friday. 7:30 p.m.

Dexter Twirlers Square Dance Club. *December 4 & 18.* Modern western square dancing to recorded music, with caller Glen Geer. All experienced dancers invited. Preceded by round dancing (7:30 p.m.). Refreshments. *8–10:30 p.m., St. Andrew's United Church of Christ, 7610 Ann Arbor Rd. at Fourth St., Dexter. $7 per couple. 433–0308.*

First Saturday Contra Dance: Ann Arbor Council for Traditional Music and Dance. Peter Baker calls to music by The Ethnic Connection. No partner needed. Wear comfortable clothes and bring flat, smooth-soled shoes for dancing. Preceded by an hour of easy Eastern European folk dances, led by John Lesko, Suzanne Schluederberg, and Liz Mustard (7 p.m.). Also, a free workshop on playing contra dance music, led by Laura Stein and David Orlin (3–6 p.m.). *8 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (1/2 mile south of I-94). $7. 665–7704, 332–9024.*

"AIDS Awareness Week": U-M Health Services. See 1 Wednesday. Today: a **"Charity Ball" informal dance** ($10 requested donation). Proceeds benefit Camp Heartland, a camp for children affected by HIV/AIDS. 8 p.m., Michigan Union Ballroom.

Kol Hakavod: Hillel. U-M Hillel's popular student a cappella group performs a wide variety of Jewish music, including original compositions and old favorites. The concert celebrates the release of the group's third CD, *Kol Cuts. 8 p.m., Hillel Green Auditorium, 1429 Hill St. $5. 769–0500.*

Handel's "Messiah": University Musical Society. *December 4 & 5.* This annual performance of Handel's beloved religious oratorio, featuring a thunderous sing-along of the "Hallelujah" chorus, has been an Ann Arbor tradition for 121 years. Thomas Sheets directs the **UMS Choral Union** and members of the **Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra.** The soloists, all established professionals with national or international reputations, include tenor **Glenn Siebert,** bass-baritone **Andrew Wentzel,** soprano **Tamara Matthews,** whose voice is described as "worthy of the angels," and contralto **Ewa Podles,** the internationally renowned singer who is still a "connoisseurs' secret" in the U.S. *8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Tickets $10–$18 in advance at Burton Tower and (if available) at the door. To charge by phone, call 764–2538 or (800) 221–1229.*

Loudon Wainwright III: The Ark. This veteran singer-songwriter is known for his mordant, occasionally bitterly self-mocking, often poignant, and usually very funny original songs about himself, other people, and contemporary culture. His 1998 CD *Little Ship* is a deliciously unsettling tour of the soulscape of middle age, and his latest CD, *Social Studies,* collects a wicked decade's-worth of PBS-commissioned satires of everyone from Jesse Helms and President Clinton to Tonya Harding and O. J. Simpson. Wainwright is also a purposefully weird performer, at once ingratiatingly Chaplinesque and freakishly ill at ease. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $17.50 in advance at Borders on Liberty, Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, and all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

"Rant and Rage: New Dance from Irish Paintings": U-M Museum of Art. See 3 Friday. 8 p.m.

"Damien": The Stage Presence, Ltd. See 2 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Utopia, Limited; or, The Flowers of Progress": U-M Gilbert and Sullivan Society. See 2 Thursday. 2 & 8 p.m.

"Staten Island": U-M Residential College Players. See 3 Friday. 8 p.m.

"Angels in America": Ann Arbor Civic Theater. See 2 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Not Waving": Performance Network Professional Season. See 2 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Jim Dailakis: Mainstreet Comedy Showcase. See 2 Thursday. 5:45, 8:15, & 10:45 p.m.

Juliana Hatfield: Prism Productions. The former lead singer of the Boston-based Blake Babies, Hatfield sings like a scrappier Chrissie Hynde and writes vivid, impassioned original rock 'n' roll songs with catchy melodies. She performs tonight with an acoustic band. *10:30 p.m. (doors open at 9 p.m.), The Blind Pig, 208 S. First. Tickets $8 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and all other Ticketmaster outlets; $12 at the door. To charge by phone, call (810) 645–6666; for information, call 996–8555.*

FILMS

Cinema Guild. "Metropolis" (Fritz Lang, 1926). Classic silent-film fantasy about a futuristic, mechanized society, with a well-off young man joining oppressed drones in a revolt. Stunning set designs. $4. 647–8434. U-M Nat. Sci. auditorium, 830 North University, 7 p.m. **"2001"** (Stanley Kubrick, 1968). Sweeping space epic, a visual feast, about an expedition to Jupiter and its unexpectedly mysterious, haunting results. Screenplay by Arthur C. Clarke. $4. 647–8434. U-M Nat. Sci., 8:45 p.m. **MTF. "Princess Mononoke"** (Hayao Miyazaki, 1999). See 2 Thursday. Mich., 7:30 & 10:15 p.m.

5 SUNDAY

★**"Sunday Bank Run": Ann Arbor Track Club.** *Every Sunday.* All invited to join AATC members for all or part of a 14-mile training run along roads ringing the city. *9 a.m., Great Lakes Bank parking lot, 2400 S. Huron Pkwy. at Platt Rd. Free. For information, call Dan Gamble at 995–5505.*

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The Thymes Limited and April Cornell.
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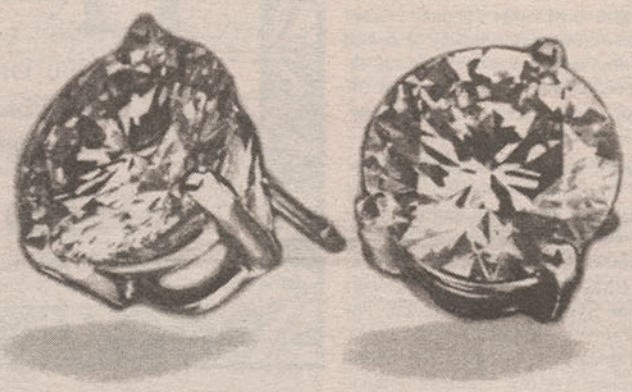

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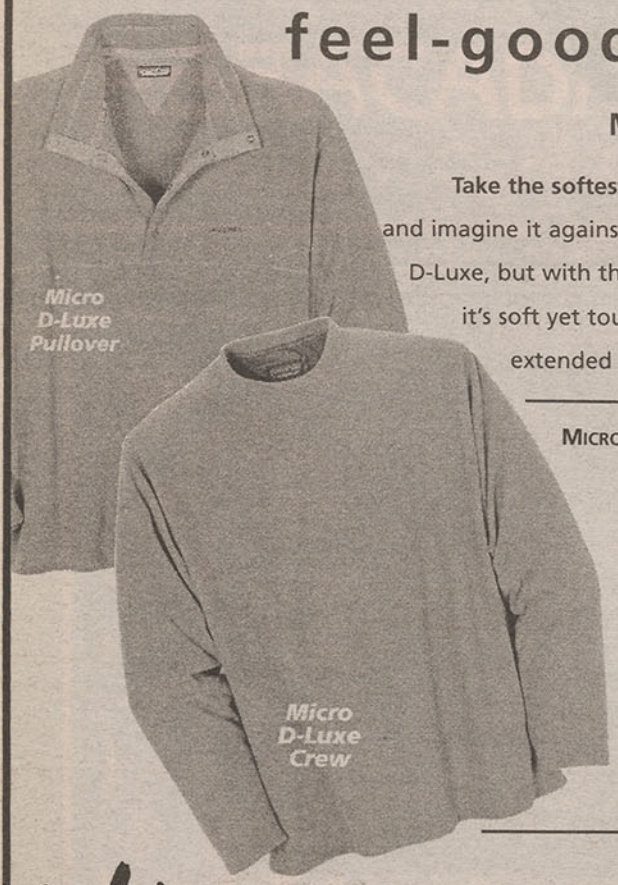

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EVENTS *continued*

★**Borealis Productions (GoodArts Project).** *Every Sunday.* Brunchtime concerts featuring a variety of local musicians. Today: keyboard pop by Ypsilanti singer-songwriter **Michael Shelata.** Also this month: fantasy folk-rock duo **MerGin** (December 5, noon), folk pop singer-songwriter **Liz Momblanco** (December 12), folk-pop guitarist **Michael Wagner** (December 12, noon), 60s and 70s folk and pop musician **Larry Watters** (December 12, 2 p.m.), politically incorrect ballads by mandolinist **Tim Prosser** (December 19), folk-rock singer-songwriter **Jim Presley** (December 19, noon), and an act TBA (December 26). *10 a.m., Amer's, 312 S. State St. Free. 327–2041.*

★**Falun Gong Instruction.** *Every Sunday.* Local practitioners introduce this Chinese physical and spiritual discipline, which consists of five gentle exercises concluding with meditation. *9–11 a.m., 1005 Dow Building, 2300 Hayward, North Campus. Free. For information, call 668–7133.*

★**Zen Meditation: Buddhist Society for Compassionate Wisdom.** *Every Sunday.* Meditators from all traditions are welcome to join in meditation to develop awareness and concentration. In the morning, two 25-minute meditation periods with a break between, followed by a short talk by Zen Buddhist Temple resident priest Sukha Murray. In the evening, meditation and chanting, followed by a talk and a question-and-answer period. *9:30–11 a.m. & 5–6:30 p.m., Zen Buddhist Temple, 1214 Packard at Wells. Free; donations accepted. 761–6520.*

★**"The Big Dome": Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission.** Energetic WCPARC naturalist Matt Heumann leads a challenging hike across lumpy, possibly muddy sedgelands to investigate a large elevated wetland formation called a "peat dome." *10 a.m., Park Lyndon North, North Territorial Rd (15 miles west of US-23). Free. 971–6337.*

★**"Ethics and Computers": Ann Arbor Unitarian Fellowship.** Talk by EMU computer sciences professor Kurt Lauckner. *10 a.m., Burns Park Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 971–8638.*

★**Hanukkah Party: Ann Arbor Jewish Cultural Society.** Games & goodies. All invited. *10 a.m.–noon, Jewish Community Center, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 975–9872.*

★**Chinese Meditation: Ann Arbor Chapter of the International Yan Xin Qigong Association.** *Every Sunday.* All invited to discuss and practice this Chinese form of meditation. *10:30 a.m.–noon, 1014 Dow, 2300 Hayward, North Campus. Free. 764–2182.*

★**"Elmo's Jingle Bell Walk": People's Food Co-op.** Local fitness guru Elmo Morales leads a 60-minute fitness walk through the Arb and Diag that finishes in time to join the Children's Holiday Parade (see listing below). Come in costume if you like; jingle bells for your toes provided. *11 a.m., meet at People's Food Co-op, 216 N. Fourth Ave. Free. Preregistration requested. 769–0095.*

★**First Singles: First Presbyterian Church.** *Every Sunday.* A weekly program open to all single adults interested in contemporary Christian topics, new ideas, personal growth, and social and physical activities. This week: Joe Evans, director of the Goodwill Industries Detroit Career Center, discusses **"The Power of Work."** Also this month: Susan Whitlock leads a group discussion of **"Peace on Earth: What Will It Take?"** (December 12), First Presbyterian associate pastor Lynn Barger Elliott discusses **"Our Hopes and Fears in Thee: Seeing Christmas Through Our Hymns"** (December 19), and an open discussion of **"Christmas Reminiscences"** (December 26). Also, members meet for breakfast every Saturday at 10:30 a.m. at Cafe Marie (1759 Plymouth Rd.). *11 a.m., First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw. Free. 662–4466.*

★**Ann Arbor Artisan Market.** *Every Sunday.* This popular seasonal arts market features a wide variety of fine arts and crafts by local artisans. *11 a.m.–4 p.m., Farmers' Market (Kerrytown). Free admission. 665–0538.*

★**17th Annual Christmas Creche Display: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.** See 3 Friday. Also, today: a **Christmas concert** (3–4 p.m.) features a medley of traditional carols by the First Presbyterian Church Handbell Choir and African carols by the Andersons family ensemble. Also, the women's vocal ensemble One Accord, a piano and bass duet by Alyce and Walt Sangster, a vocal duet by Mary Burtnett and Linda Downie, a vocal solo by Elizabeth Hedquist, and solo performances by organist Marcia Kister and pianist Richard Atamian. 11 a.m.–7 p.m.

★**"Newcomer's Day": Karma Thegsum Choling.**

country music

Ricky Skaggs
The road back to bluegrass

Ricky Skaggs grew up in Appalachian Kentucky, and Bill Monroe called him up on stage to sing "Ruby" when he was five years old. As a teenage musician he met Keith Whitley, and one night bluegrass legend Ralph Stanley heard the pair performing his songs in a club. Telling them that they played Stanley Brothers songs better than the Stanley Brothers, he hired them to play in his band.

That endorsement still fits Skaggs's music well, but his road back to classic bluegrass has had a few circles and twists. After a stint with a band of his own and an apprenticeship with Emmylou Harris's Hot Band, Skaggs became a leader of country's neotraditionalist movement in the 1980s. He developed what still remains the only successful formula for commercializing bluegrass while keeping much of its essence, and placed twenty singles in the top reaches of the country charts. Whitley, who also became a star, died an unbelievably sleazy, booze-soaked death, but Skaggs turned to fundamentalist Christianity, and irked Nashville's dissolute by promoting Pat Robertson's presidential campaign.

That took the momentum out of his career, but Skaggs had never strayed too far from the music of his youth, and the bluegrass world welcomed him back when he released his *Bluegrass Rules!* album in 1997 and followed it up this year with *Ancient Tones*. His new sound is a pure reproduction of the classic bluegrass he learned on the way up. Heavy on standards by Monroe and Stanley, Skaggs's repertoire offers a fine introduction to country's classical music. He has a particular affinity for the late Carter Stanley's songs, which incorporated honky-tonk's acrid romantic disillusionment into the bluegrass form, and for Monroe's driving mandolin blues. Those hand-clapping, foot-tapping affairs by themselves will be worth the price of admission when Skaggs comes to the Ark for two shows Sunday, December 12.

Of course the classic sound has never disappeared in this most tradition-oriented of genres, but the younger bands of the 1990s have been individualistic in style. Some have modernized the music, while others have dug deeper into the past, resurrecting material from half-memories and old hymnals. Women, who have come to the forefront for the first time, have their own various takes on the tradition. In the midst of this diversity, Skaggs is succeeding by being a direct link to the music of the people from whom he learned. Having stepped outside of classic bluegrass for so long, he now sees its lines and forms more clearly than any other contemporary musician.

—James M. Manheim

KTC staff members introduce Buddhist thought and demonstrate basic meditation practices. Refreshments. All invited. *11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m., KTC, 614 Miner (off Miller). Free. 761–7495.*

★**Adult Forum: First Unitarian Church.** *Every Sunday except December 26.* Today: local social worker Rebecca Mullen discusses **"The Spiritual and Healing Power of Dreams."** Also this month: Ann Arbor Ecology Center member Jeff Gearhart talks about **"Green Vehicles"** (December 12), and the church's senior minister, Kenneth Phifer, answers questions he received from the congregation during the "Question Box" service on November 28 (December 19). *11:45 a.m., First Unitarian Church Sanctuary, 4001 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. at Ellsworth. Free. 665–6158.*

★**"First Sunday Free": ArtVentures Studio (Ann Arbor Art Center).** All children and their parents invited to make various art projects. *Noon–5 p.m., Ann Arbor Art Center, 117 W. Liberty. Free. 994–8004.*

Silent Meditation: Essence Point. *Every Sunday.* Two unguided 25-minute silent meditation periods with a short break in between. All welcome. *Noon–1 p.m., Guild House, 802 Monroe. Donations appreciated. 913–9830.*

★**"Israel Update: Coffee and Current Events": American Movement for Israel.** All invited to this informal discussion group led by members of this U-M student group, who bring newspapers, magazines, and other information about the latest events in Israel. *Noon, Espresso Royale Cafe, 322 State St. Free (pay for your own snack). 769–0500.*

★**"First Sunday Hot Sauce Tasting": Tios Mexican Cafe.** Tios manager Tim Seaver offers samples of the hundreds of hot sauces and salsas available at this popular Mexican diner. Work your way through 100 sauces and you'll get a free T-shirt. *Noon–4 p.m., Tios Mexican Cafe, 333 E. Huron. Free. 761–6650.*

★**11th Annual Children's Holiday Parade: Main Street Area Association.** Kids of all ages are invited to don a costume if they like and join a downtown street parade starring Santa and Mrs. Claus, whose reindeer-drawn sleigh leads floats, families (strollers welcome), city fire engines, public school buses, costumed animal characters, and area high school marching bands (kids receive kazoos to play along). Scout and Brownie troops and children's groups of any kind can march together with an identifying banner. The parade starts at the Federal Building and goes down Liberty to Fourth Avenue to Washington to Main to the Detroit Edison parking lot at William, where a petting farm is set up. Afterward, free hot chocolate and cookies are available at the Real Seafood Company. Also, all invited to donate new toys for needy children to the SOS Community Toy Chest at 306 S. Main. *Noon (assemble), 12:30 p.m. (parade), Federal Bldg., E. Liberty at S. Fourth Ave. Free. 668–7112.*

★**Senior Sunday Fun Bunch: Ann Arbor Public Schools Senior Adult Program.** *Every Sunday.* All seniors age 55 and older are invited for an afternoon of socializing. Activities include a potluck (1–1:30 p.m.) and bridge and euchre (1:30–3:30 p.m.). Participants are welcome to bring their own games. Bring a dish to pass and your own table service. Newcomers welcome. *12:30–3:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 769–5911.*

★**Food Service: Food Not Bombs.** *Every Sunday.* The local chapter of this national nonprofit organization serves free vegetarian meals prepared from fresh leftover food donated by local restaurants. All welcome to partake. *1–3 p.m., Liberty Plaza, corner of E. Liberty and Division. Free. 994–0001.*

★**Ann Arbor Go Club.** *December 5, 13, & 19.* Players of all ages and ability levels invited to play this ancient board game. Go equipment and basic instruction provided. Also, the club hosts a workshop with visiting professional Go player Jim Kerwin on December 27 (details TBA). *1–4 p.m. (Dec. 5 & 19) & 7–10 p.m. (Dec. 13), Borders cafe, 612 E. Liberty. Free. 663–1675.*

★**"(Re)Constructing Berlin": U-M Center for European Studies.** A day-long symposium featuring architects, historians, and urban planners from the U.S. and Germany. Includes panel discussions on **"Architecture and Urbanism in the 20th Century"** (1–3 p.m.), **"The Reichstag"** (3:30–5:30 p.m.), and **"Reconstructing Berlin"** (6–7 p.m.). *1–7 p.m., U-M Museum of Art. Free. 936–6480.*

★**"Remembering Diamond Head, Remembering Hawaii": Westgate Nicola's Books.** *December 5 & 12 (different Nicola's locations).* Shirley Tong Parola, former owner of the defunct local Diamond Head Cafe, and her daughter Lisa prepare a demo recipe and discuss this cookbook, which celebrates the Hawaiian-American experience with a blend of recipes, family history, anecdotes, and more. *1 p.m., Nicola's Books (Little Professor) in Westgate Shopping Center (Dec. 5) & in Traver Village Shopping Center (Dec. 12). Free. 662–4110.*

★**"Paper Gathering": Hollander's.** All paper crafters invited to share ideas and projects in an informal setting. *1–4 p.m., Hollander's, Kerrytown, 407 N. Fifth Ave. Free. 741–7531.*

Christmas Open House: Milan Area Historical Society/Milan Jaycees. Guided tours of the Hack House, a Victorian home that has been decorated to re-create a 19th-century Christmas. Refreshments. *1–4 p.m., Hack House, 775 County St., Milan. $2. 439–8387.*

"Holiday Home Tour": Depot Town Association. Tour of 7 homes a short drive from one another, lavishly decorated inside and out. This year's tour features both new and old homes, including the Tri Sigma sorority house, a custom-built house, the Parrish House Inn B&B, a west side home, and a 110-year-old gem that features the undisputed **longest porch in Ypsilanti.** Proceeds benefit Meals on Wheels and the Depot Town Association. *1–6 p.m., various locations. Tickets $12 in advance at Ypsilanti's Quinn's Essentials and Me 'n' My Sister's, and at Ann Arbor's John Leidy and Celtic Gardens, $15 at the door (at each house). 544–4690.*

Shari Kane and Ray Kamalay: The Ark. A family concert featuring two guitar virtuosos. Kane, best known locally as Madcat Ruth's partner in Madcat and Kane, is an expert acoustic fingerpicking blues guitarist who specializes in the music of Robert Johnson and other Delta blues masters. Kamalay is a Lansing guitarist whose repertoire ranges from Renaissance music to early jazz, blues, and swing. *1 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $5 in advance at Borders on Liberty, Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, and all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

6th Annual Benefit: Avalon Housing. Latin-flavored jazz by **Bruce Dondero's Latin Jazz Quintet,** an ensemble of veteran local favorites led by bassist Dondero. With saxophonist and flutist Paul Vornhagen, pianist Sven Anderson, drummer Sean Dobbins, and conga player Norm Shobey. Proceeds to benefit Avalon, a 7-year-old local nonprofit agency that currently owns and manages over 137 units of affordable housing for low-income individuals and families in 15 sites scattered around town. Hors d'oeuvres. *1–4 p.m., The Earle, 121 W. Washington. Tickets $35 ($60 for two) in advance and at the door. 663–5858.*

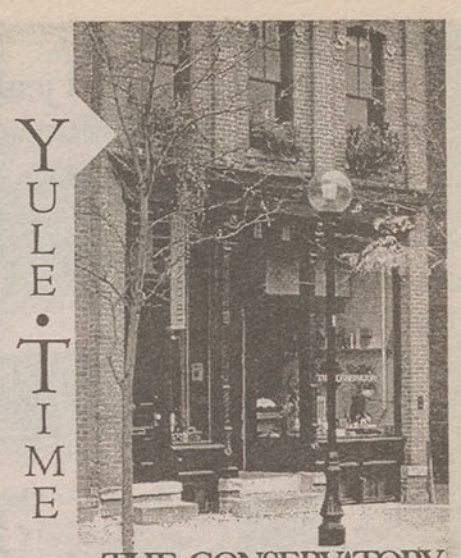
★**"Searching for Swedish Ancestors, the Ancestral Home, and Living Descendants": Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County.** Talk by club member Don Hultquist, a U-M medical school biological chemistry professor. Followed by a class on **"The Use of Probates and Deeds"** presented by club member Nancy Krohn. *1:30 p.m., Washtenaw Community College Liberal Arts & Science, lecture hall 2, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Free. 483–2799.*

★**"Monkeys and Magic with Mother Goose": Kerrytown Shops/Workbench Furniture.** 30-minute family-oriented program of rhymes, riddles, and rollicking fun, with local storyteller Trudy Bulkley as Mother Goose. *2 p.m., Workbench Furniture, Kerrytown. Free. 769–3115.*

★**12th Annual Festival of Lights: Village of Chelsea.** See 3 Friday. The festival concludes today with **Heritage Room Tours** at the Chelsea Retirement Center (2–4 p.m.) and a **Festival of Lessons and Carols** (7 p.m., St. Paul's United Church of Christ).

★**Shirley Crane Galliher: "Small Works": Washington Street Gallery.** Opening reception for an exhibit of this local artist's small, semiabstract watercolor landscapes (see Galleries listing). *2–4 p.m., Washington Street Gallery, 215 E. Washington St. Free. 761–2287.*

★**Victorian Christmas Open House: Ypsilanti Historical Museum.** This exquisite 1860s Italianate home is decorated in Victorian style, with a Christmas tree. Also, an annotated display of antiques collected from the area. Refreshments. *2–5 p.m., Ypsilanti Historical Museum, 220 N. Huron, Ypsilanti. Free. 482–4990.*



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EVENTS *continued*

Gender-Free Contra Dance: Ann Arbor Rainbow Contra Dancers. Traditional American folk dancing for people of all orientations. There are two distinct roles in contra dancing, one traditionally male and one female. In gender-free contra dancing, dancers take whichever position they like and with any partner they like. Joseph Pimentel calls to music by David West and Donna Baird. No partner necessary. All dances taught; beginners welcome (beginner lesson at 1:30 p.m.). Bring flat, smooth-soled shoes for dancing. *2–5 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (1/2 mile south of I-94). $6 (students, $5). 975–2312.*

"Christmas at Our Place": Varsity Blues and Company. See 4 Saturday. 2 p.m.

Handel's "Messiah": University Musical Society. See 4 Saturday. 2 p.m.

"Utopia, Limited; or, The Flowers of Progress": U-M Gilbert and Sullivan Society. See 2 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"Not Waving": Performance Network Professional Season. See 2 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"Charlotte's Web": Wild Swan Theater. See 1 Wednesday. 2 & 4 p.m.

"Angels in America": Ann Arbor Civic Theater. See 2 Thursday. 2 p.m.

Marching Band Concert: U-M School of Music. *2:30 p.m., Crisler Arena. Tickets (price TBA) in advance and at the door. 764–6525.*

★**"Introduction to Hearthwitchery": The Seeker Journal.** *December 5 & 19.* A chance for beginners or those who haven't chosen a specific pagan tradition to learn about hearth witchery, which uses herbs, stones, candles, trees, and the earth, and general magick. Today: **"Practical Healing and Protection."** Also this month: **"Introduction to Ritual Building"** (December 19). Refreshments. *3 p.m., ICC Education Center, 1522 Hill St. (in the carriage house behind the co-op buildings). Free. 665–3522.*

★**Ann Arbor–Motown Hash House Harriers.** *Every Sunday and occasional Mondays.* The local chapter of an unorthodox international running club for people who like to make a game of running. Each runner's primary task is to follow a trail, laid out by a club member, that has been designed to trick runners into losing their way. The usual result is to make the fastest (lead) runners run the longest distance, so that runners of varying abilities complete the course in nearly the same time. Each run includes at least one pit stop (with beer and soft drinks hidden along the way) and is followed by a trip to a nearby restaurant for refreshments. *3 p.m. (Sun.) & 6:30 p.m. (Mon.), location TBA. Free. For location and information, visit the group's website (www-personal.umich.edu/~ronmoore/a2h3) or call 332–9314.*

Alternative Holiday Fair: First Baptist Church/ Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice. This holiday sale encourages less consumer-oriented ways of celebrating the holidays. It features handmade arts and crafts from Third World countries and a chance to help pay for farm animals (on hand and available for petting) to go to needy farm families. Also, calendars, cards, and other items to benefit local, national, and international peace and justice organizations. *3–7 p.m., First Baptist Church, 512 E. Huron. Free admission. 663–1870.*

★**"Holiday Pops Concert": Ann Arbor Civic Chorus (Ann Arbor Public Schools Community Education & Recreation).** Rebecca Vlisides directs this local chorus accompanied by pianist Joyce Reese in a festive program of holiday music, featuring works by Gabrieli, Monteverdi, and Lauridsen. Also, Mel Torme's "Christmas Song" and selections from Lerner & Loewe's *Brigadoon. 3 p.m., Slauson Middle School, 1029 W. Washington. Free. 994–2300, ext. 228.*

★**Michigan Chamber Players: U-M School of Music.** Chamber performance by some of the U-M music school's outstanding faculty, including violist Yizhak Schotten, oboist Harry Sargous, clarinetist Deborah Chodacki, bassoonist Richard Beene, cellist Anthony Elliott, violinists Andrew Jennings and Stephen Shipps, flutist Amy Porter, hornist Soren Hermansson, and vocalists Melody Racine and Timothy Cheek. Program: Brahms' String Sextet in B-flat Major, Bach's Sonata in E Minor for flute and continuo, Mozart's Quintet for Winds and Piano in E-flat Major, and Ernest Chausson's *Chanson Perpetuelle* for voice, piano, and string quartet. *4 p.m., U-M Music School Britton Recital Hall, 1100 Baits Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764–0594.*

★**Arianna String Quartet: EMU Music Department.** The 1994 grand prize winner at the prestigious Fischoff Chamber Music Competition, the Arianna continues its 4th year as EMU quartet-in-residence with a concert highlighted by the world premiere of a commissioned string quartet by EMU music professor Anthony Iannacone. Also, Mozart's Adagio and Fugue and Schubert's Quartet in G Minor. Preceded at 3 p.m. by a talk by Iannacone and Arianna members on Iannacone's new piece. *4 p.m., Pease Auditorium, EMU campus, W. Cross at College Place, Ypsilanti. Free. 487–2255.*

22nd Annual Boar's Head Festival: Concordia College. See 3 Friday. 4 p.m.

★**"Contemporary Perspectives": Dance Gallery Studio "Looking at Dance" Series.** Michael Rudy leads local choreographers and *Ann Arbor News* dance reviewer Sue Nisbett in a panel discussion about modern genres and styles of both "highbrow" and popular dance, and the way in which ballet, modern, and jazz dance forms influence each other. Designed for those who feel they don't "get" dance. *4:30–6:30 p.m., Dance Gallery Studio, 111 3rd St. Free. 747–8885.*

★**Jazz Mass: Canterbury House.** *December 5 & 12.* An alternative Episcopal worship service with live music by Quartex, a group led by U-M composer Stephen Rush that plays original and traditional jazz, techno, gospel, rock, and meditative music from the ecumenical community of Taize, France. Rev. Matthew Lawrence is preacher and celebrant. Free supper follows. *5 p.m., Canterbury House, 721 E. Huron St. Free; offering taken. 665–0606.*

★**Morris Dancing: Ann Arbor Morris & Sword Dancers.** *Every Sunday.* All invited to learn this traditional form of English ceremonial dance dating back to medieval times. No experience necessary. Wear comfortable soft-soled shoes. Members perform in costume on May Day and other occasions throughout the year. *6–8 p.m., Gretchen's House Day Care, 2340 Oak Valley Dr. Free. For information, call Jill Baker at 677–1498.*

II-V-I Orchestra: Heidelberg Restaurant. *Every Sunday.* Dancing to late-30s swing and 40s R&B by this veteran local big band led by Urbations saxophonist David Swain. *7–9:30 p.m., Heidelberg Restaurant (3rd floor), 215 N. Main. $3. 663–7758.*

Ethnic Music Concert: Ann Arbor Council for Traditional Music and Dance. Concert of Scandinavian, French, and Bulgarian songs performed by Bruce Sagan, Brad Battey, and Nan Nelson. Their unusual instruments include a nyckelharpa (Swedish key fiddle), hardingfele (Norwegian fiddle with several sympathetic strings), a Bulgarian gudulka (like a violin), and tambura (a long-necked lute originally from India). *7 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (1/2 mile south of I-94). $7. 769–1052.*

Israeli Dancing: Hillel. *December 5 & 12.* Tom Starks leads 30 minutes of instruction for beginners, followed by open dancing. *7:30–10 p.m., 1429 Hill St. $2.50. 769–0500.*

Anson Funderburgh & the Rockets: The Ark. This Texas blues band is led by guitar virtuoso Funderburgh and vocalist-blues harpist Sam Meyers. Regarded as one of the best of Texas's many superb young blues guitar virtuosos, Funderburgh is known for his understated, concise, and smooth yet stinging style. Meyers, a blues veteran who has played with everyone from Elmore James to Big Joe Turner, sings in a gravelly, soulful croon and plays biting Chicago-style harmonica. *7:30 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $15 in advance at Borders on Liberty, Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, and all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

"Y2K Kabaret": U-M School of Music. U-M music professor Joan Morris's cabaret students offer a program of songs from the last century. *8 p.m., Kerrytown Concert House. Donation. 769–2999.*

Weekly Meeting: U-M Ballroom Dancers. *December 5, 12, & 19.* Ballroom dancing to recorded music, including fox-trots, waltzes, cha-chas, rumbas, tangos, swing, and more. No partner necessary. Preceded by intermediate waltz (4–5:30 p.m.) and beginning rumba (5:30–8 p.m.) lessons & practice. *8–10 p.m., Michigan Union Ballroom. $2. 763–6984.*

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation. "Meet Me in St. Louis" (Vincente Minnelli, 1944). Today only. Musical about a family's experiences during the 1904 World's Fair. Judy Garland. FREE. 668–8480. Michigan Theater, 3 p.m. **"Princess Mononoke"** (Hayao Miyazaki, 1999). See 2 Thursday. Mich., 5:30 & 8:30 p.m.

6 MONDAY

★**"Fast Talk": Fast Company Ann Arbor Cell of Friends.** *Every Monday.* All invited to discuss business issues with other people interested in topics raised by the Detroit-based "smart business" maga-

zine *Fast Company. 7 a.m., Einstein's Bagels, 307 S. State. Free. 761–1547.*

★**Weekly Rehearsal: Women's Chamber Chorus.** *Every Monday.* All invited to join this independent 30-member local women's chorus, a member of the Washtenaw Council for the Arts, to sing everything from Bach and Hungarian folk songs to madrigals and pop tunes. Gini Robison directs. *10–11:45 a.m., West Side Methodist Church, 900 S. Seventh at Davis. Free to first-time visitors ($40 per semester membership dues). 677–0678, 663–5907.*

★**17th Annual Christmas Creche Display: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.** See 3 Friday. 10 a.m.–9 p.m.

★**Monday Club: Ann Arbor Salvation Army.** *Today only.* Drop-in social group for seniors age 55 and older. Every meeting includes a special program, speaker, word game, or craft activity. The weekly program also includes **Bible study** and **chair exercises.** Coffee, tea, juice, and doughnuts served. Followed by lunch and socializing. *10:30 a.m.–noon, Salvation Army, 100 Arbana. Free ($1 donation for lunch). 668–8353.*

★**Jewish Older Adults: Jewish Community Center.** *Every Monday except December 27.* Activities begin with **"Fitness Fun"** (11 a.m.–noon) led by Maria Farquhar. At noon, a homemade luncheon buffet ($4, $3 with reservations). Also, on December 6 & 13 only, local artist and art historian Marianne Sachs-Jacob presents a series of illustrated talks on **"Art History"** (1–2 p.m.). All invited. *11 a.m., Jewish Community Center, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 971–0990.*

Weekly Luncheon Series: U-M Club of Ann Arbor. *Every Monday except December 27.* A weekly lunchtime talk by U-M men's basketball coach **Brian Ellerbe,** along with other speakers to be announced (usually another U-M coach). *11:15 a.m., Weber's Inn, 3050 Jackson Rd. Lunch cost: $7.75 (seniors, $7.25). For more information, call Ben Fairman at 668–6702.*

★**Bible Study Group: Guild House.** *December 6 & 20.* All invited to study the Bible with Guild House minister Diane Christopherson. The group is currently studying the **parables and sayings of Jesus.** *Noon–1 p.m., Bethlehem United Church of Christ, 423 S. Fourth Ave. Free. 662–5189.*

★**"Chat with Dr. Ed": U-M Turner Geriatrics Center.** All seniors age 50 & older invited to join retired physician Edmund Whale to ask questions about **"Back & Extremity Pain."** *Noon–1 p.m., Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 998–9353.*

★**"The Effects of Marital Status on Men's Housework": U-M Population Studies Center Brown Bag Seminars.** *Rescheduled from October.* Talk by U-M sociology researcher Sanjiv Gupta. Bring a bag lunch. *Noon–1 p.m., Population Studies Large Conference Room, 311 Maynard (next to Borders). Free. 998–7275.*

★**Card Party: Northeast Senior Center.** All seniors invited to play bridge, euchre, and dominoes, and to socialize. Refreshments. *12:45 p.m., Dixboro United Methodist Church, 5221 Church Rd. (off N. Dixboro Rd. just north of Plymouth Rd.). Free. Reservations requested. 996–0070.*

★**"Jewish and Muslim Varieties of Moroccan Arabic": U-M Center for Near Eastern Studies.** Talk by U-M linguistics professor Jeff Heath. *4 p.m., 3050 Frieze Bldg. Free. 764–0314.*

★**"Singing about Stalin and Others: Yiddish 'Folk Songs' in the Soviet Union": U-M Center for Judaic Studies.** Talk by **Anya Shternshis,** an Oxford University philosophy grad student who also offers a lecture on December 8 on **"Trying to Transform the Tradition: The Attempt to Sovietize Jewish Traditions and Practices in the USSR in the 1920s and 1930s"** (noon, 3040 Frieze). *4 p.m., 3040 Frieze, 105 S. State. Free. 763–9047.*

★**Weekly Meeting: Huron Valley Toastmasters.** *Every Monday.* Members give speeches and are critiqued by their audience. A good opportunity to develop confidence in speaking publicly. Preceded at 6:30 p.m. by dinner in the U-M Hospital cafeteria. *Note:* Different Toastmasters chapters meet every Wednesday & Thursday (see listings). *7–9 p.m., U-M Main Hospital cafeteria, 1500 E. Medical Center Dr. (off Fuller). Free to visitors. Dues: $48 a year (after a onetime nonrefundable fee of $16). 663–1836.*

★**Weekly Meeting: The Barony of Cynnabar (Society for Creative Anachronism).** *Every Monday.* All invited to join this local chapter of the Society for Creative Anachronism. Each meeting features a workshop on re-creating a different aspect of medieval culture, including heraldry, costuming, embroidery, and other crafts. *7 p.m., 1305 EECS, 1301*

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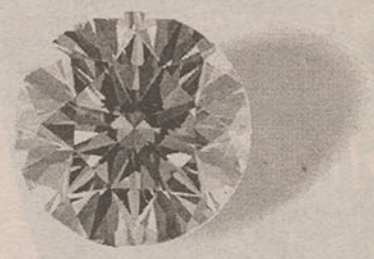
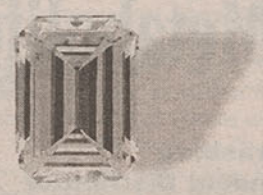
Qual·i·ty **n.** The degree of excellence a thing possesses: superiority: excellence



Val·ue **n.** The worth of a thing in money or goods



In·teg·ri·ty **n.** the quality or state of being of sound moral principle, honesty and sincerity

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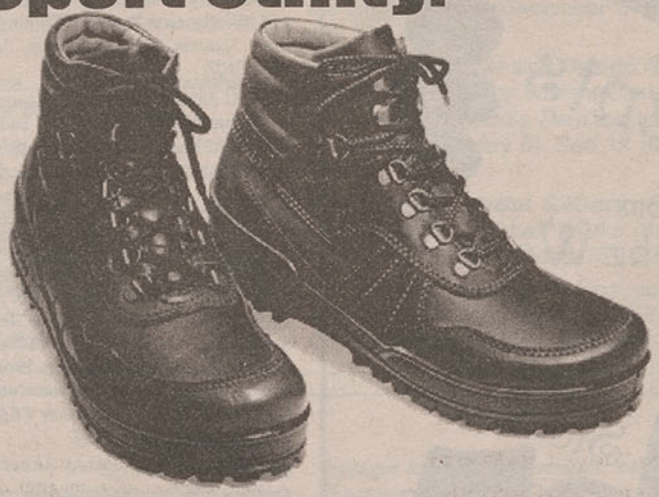

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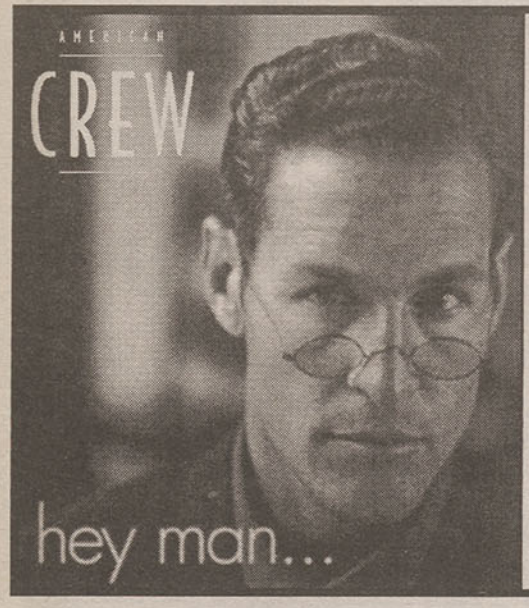

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EVENTS *continued*

Beal, North Campus. Free. For information, call Bill Rayl at 973–8825.

★**Monthly Large Ensemble Meeting: Ann Arbor Recorder Society.** All beginning and advanced players of the recorder and other early instruments invited. Music provided; bring your own music stand. *7–9 p.m., Clonlara School, 1289 Jewett (between Packard and South Industrial). Free to first-time visitors ($30 annual dues). 769–1616.*

★**"Buying a Home Without Losing Your Shirt": The Buyer's Agent.** Real estate professionals lead a discussion on first-time home buying, including the search process, negotiation, mortgages, and closings. *7–8:30 p.m., The Buyer's Agent, 1900 W. Stadium. Free, but preregistration required. 662–6240.*

★**"Circumcision": Bradley Method of Natural Childbirth "Early Bird" Class.** All expectant parents invited to this group discussion. *7–9 p.m., Friends Meetinghouse, 1416 Hill St. Free. 426–2151.*

"Messages for the Millennium": Crystal Clear Expressions. Nanci Rose Gerler channels spiritual messages from various masters, guides, and angels. *7–9 p.m., Crazy Wisdom Bookstore, 114 S. Main. $12. Reservations requested. 996–8799.*

Weekly Meeting: Dream Group. *Every Monday.* All invited to discuss their dreams from Jungian, Buddhist, and other spiritual perspectives. Discussion facilitator is local social worker Rebecca Mullen. *7:30 p.m., location TBA. $5 donation. 662–5925.*

★**Weekly Rehearsal: Out Loud Chorus.** *Every Monday.* Beginning to advanced singers invited to join this chorus for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered people. *7:30–9:30 p.m., Memorial Christian Church, 730 Tappan. Free. 973–6084.*

★**"Monday Evenings with Stephen McLean": LifeTouch Chiropractic.** *December 6 & 27.* Ongoing series of talks by this local chiropractor. Tonight: **"Network Chiropractic's Influence on Environmental Illness."** Also this month: **"Transformation Through Network Chiropractic Care and the 12 Stages of Healing"** (December 27). *8 p.m., LifeTouch Chiropractic, 1210 N. Maple Rd. at Miller. Free, but reservations requested. 668–6110.*

★**Lyn Coffin: Shaman Drum Bookshop.** *See review, p. 85.* This award-winning local writer reads from ***Crystals of the Unforeseen,*** her recently published collection of poetry and short fiction and drama notable for what *Michigan Quarterly Review* editor Laurence Goldstein calls their "seemingly limitless fertility of invention . . . as the language spins out, briefly or at length." Signing, refreshments. *8 p.m., Shaman Drum Bookshop, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.*

★**EMU Jazz & Percussion Ensembles: EMU Music Department.** John Dorsey and Mike Hall direct these two music-student ensembles in a program of upbeat jazz standards and contemporary works. *8 p.m., Pease Auditorium, EMU campus, W. Cross at College Place, Ypsilanti. Free. 487–2255.*

★**"Neurofeedback and the Treatment of ADD, Depression, Anxiety, Anger, and Bipolar Disorders": Counseling Resources of Ann Arbor.** Talk by local social work therapist Bob Egri. Also this month, Egri discusses **"The 10 Key Ways to Make Your Intimate Relationships Work"** (December 7) and **"Conflict Resolution for Couples"** (December 8). *8:15–9:15 p.m., location TBA. Free. Reservations requested. 665–6924.*

FILMS

MTF. "Princess Mononoke" (Hayao Miyazaki, 1999). See 2 Thursday. Mich., 7:30 p.m.

7 TUESDAY

"Athena Job Club": Soundings. *Every Tuesday.* Networking group for women actively seeking jobs. *9:30–10:30 a.m., Soundings, 4090 Packard Rd. $5. Reservations requested. 973–7723.*

★**"Peter Sellars's Effort to 'Reawaken' Chinese Opera": U-M Center for Chinese Studies Brown Bag Lecture.** Slide-illustrated talk by University of British Columbia Asian studies professor Catherine Swatek on a current avant-garde production of *Peony Pavilion.* Bring a bag lunch; cookies & coffee served. *Noon–1 p.m., 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 764–6308.*

★**Arbor Consort: Ann Arbor District Library "Downtown Sounds" Concert Series.** This local ensemble, dressed in turn-of-the-last-century costume, performs (in the original languages) traditional European French, Spanish, and German carols. Bring a bag lunch; coffee & tea provided. *12:10–1 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 345 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 994–2333.*

★**"Holiday Luncheon": Newcomers Coterie Club of Ann Arbor.** All newcomers to the Ann Arbor area invited to a potluck. Bring a hot dish, salad, or dessert to pass. *12:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Women's City Club, 1830 Washtenaw. Free. Reservations required. 214–1923.*

★**Jewish Older Adults: Jewish Community Center.** *Every Tuesday except December 28.* Activities feature a meeting of the **ABC Quilters** (1–3 p.m.) to make quilts for HIV-infected babies. Also, mahjongg. All invited. *1–3 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 971–0990.*

★**"The Mirror of Simple Souls": U-M Institute for the Humanities.** *December 7–10.* A walk-through of an opera installation created by the well-known Canadian poet **Anne Carson,** in collaboration with a dozen U-M art students and U-M music student Jason Kirk, who composed the music. Carson's libretto is inspired by Marguerite Porete, a medieval mystic whose book, *The Mirror of Simple Souls,* led to her execution as a heretic under the papal Inquisition. The printed libretto, accompanied by recorded music, is distributed through the 7-room installation. Also, an opening reception at 5 p.m. today. *3–8 p.m., U-M Media Union Video Studio, 2281 Bonisteel, North Campus. Free. 936–3518.*

"PlayGym": Gymboree. Children 8 months to 4 years old, accompanied by a parent, are invited to try Gymboree's play gym. Requested donation is a lightly used children's coat (if possible) and $5 for a local charity. *4:30–6:30 p.m., Gymboree, 3660 Plaza Dr. (south off Eisenhower west of State St.). Donation. 214–3770.*

U-M Women's Basketball vs. Vanderbilt. *7 p.m., Crisler Arena. $5 (youths under 14 & seniors, $3; U-M students with ID, free). 764–0247.*

★**Track Workout: Ann Arbor Track Club.** *Every Tuesday except December 28.* Runners (and walkers) of all ages and abilities welcome. Now in their 24th year, the Track Club's workouts are a popular means for runners to train and be timed at various distances. *7–8:30 p.m., U-M Track & Tennis Bldg., Hoover at S. State. Free. 663–9740.*

★**"A Gathering of Peace": The Free Daist Communion.** *Every Tuesday.* Prayer vigil for peace featuring the teachings of Adi Da, Western-born guru Heart Master (formerly known as Da Free John). All invited. *7 p.m., location TBA. Free. 741–0432.*

★**Buddhist Book Club: Karma Thegsum Choling.** *Every Tuesday.* All invited to discuss ***The Great Path of Awakening,*** Jamgon Kongtrul Rinpoche's 7-step guide to compassion. Refreshments. *7 p.m., Karma Thegsum Choling, 614 Miner (off Miller). Free. 761–7495.*

★**Weekly Meeting: Tuesday Night Knitters' Group.** *Every Tuesday.* Knitters of all levels of experience invited to join this group that meets weekly to knit together and share techniques and ideas. *7–9 p.m., location TBA. Free. 747–9765.*

★**Weekly Rehearsal: Sweet Adelines County Connection.** *Every Tuesday.* All women invited to drop in and listen to or participate in the weekly rehearsals of this local 30-member barbershop harmony chorus. *7–10:30 p.m., UAW Local 898 Hall, 8975 Textile Rd. (west of Rawsonville Rd. off I-94), Ypsilanti. Free to first-time visitors ($18 monthly dues for those who join). 995–4110.*

"Surviving the Holiday Season—and the Other 9 Months": Women Business Owners of Southeast Michigan. Talk by local wellness consultant Jan Wiedmayer. Also, networking (6:30 p.m.). *7–8:30 p.m., 777 Eisenhower at S. State. $10 (members, free). Reservations required. 332–9300.*

★**Dianne Baker: Liberty Borders.** This local storyteller and poet tells holiday stories for kids. *7 p.m., Borders, 612 E. Liberty. Free. 668–7652.*

★**"Winter Sky Preview": U-M Detroit Observatory Lecture Series.** Talk by U-M Exhibit Museum planetarium director Matthew Linke, who illustrates his talk by projecting planets, bright stars, and constellations on the observatory library ceiling. *7 p.m., U-M Detroit Observatory library, 1398 East Ann St. at Observatory St. Free. 763–2230.*

★**"Paint Your Own Christmas Ornament": Arborland Borders Books and Music.** *December 7 & 11.* Representatives from the pottery-painting studio **Feat of Clay** offer bisqueware ornaments to paint with glaze, to be fired in a kiln for a permanent decoration. *7 p.m. (December 7) & 2 p.m. (December 11), Borders, 3527 Washtenaw. Free. 677–6948.*

★**Open House: Ann Arbor Civic Theater.** Prospective volunteers invited to take a tour of the playhouse and learn about volunteer opportunities. *7:15 p.m., AACT, 2275 Platt. Free. 971–0605.*

★**"Literary Night": Conor O'Neill's.** *Every Tuesday.* All invited to read and discuss classic, contemporary, and/or your own prose and poetry. Led by local high school English teacher Geoff Cost, who begins each evening with a reading from Irish litera-

Richard Harrington's *Marriage*

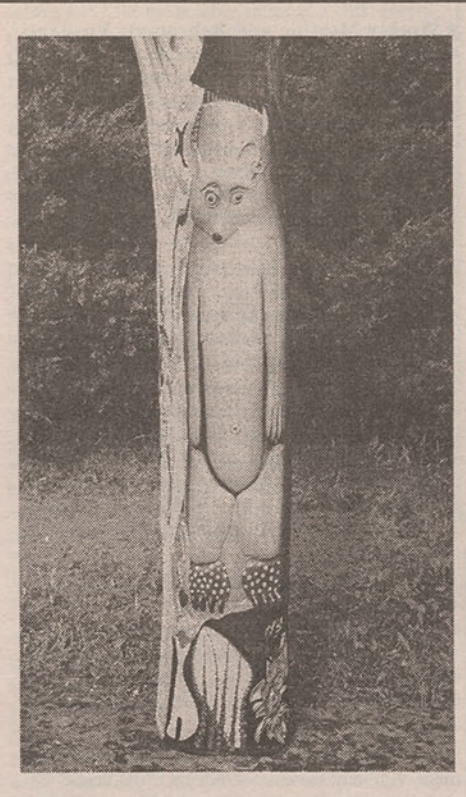
A tree-high drum

A Picasso that's also a percussion instrument? Never heard of it. Can you drum on a Degas, or rattle a Renoir? Try it, and the only artwork you'll see for awhile is your cellmate's somewhat Daliesque tattoo. But Gallery 212 offers a chance to see—and hear—*The Great Dream Drum of the White Bear,* a giant sculpture-drum that's part of Richard Harrington's exhibit *Marriage.*

Marriage, the exhibit's namesake piece, is an abstract work, a set of wooden planes and limbs a foot and a half wide and about eleven feet tall. Four different "legs" merge halfway up the piece, separating into three elements, one flat and two topped in head-sized knobs.

Carved from a single tree, the work has edges that draw the eye smoothly up, to swirl in the sinuous curves at the center before sliding to the top. The visual impression is one of balance and unity.

Naming an abstract work with a concrete term invites comparison, but I saw three, not two, main figures, none childlike. Did the artist mean to suggest a harmonious mood, or representative figures? I asked another viewer what he thought.



We agreed that one element resembled a shield, eclipsing the other two figures from one angle. "I think that this shield is like a social facade," ventured the visitor. Markings suggesting an expressionless face stared at us. "Everything's fine; can't see any problems; they're the perfect couple!" he continued. Covered by the shield, the figures looked joined, but another angle revealed that aside from their midway connection, they stood separately.

The eighteen-inch-wide, twenty-five-foot-long *Great Dream Drum of the White Bear,* also carved from a tree trunk, hangs in the gallery like a battering ram. Suggestive of a totem pole, the multicolor work is covered with carved animal imagery suggesting Native American influences, as well as abstract waves, a family portrait, and a strand of DNA.

A bear, whose belly forms the drumming surface, dominates the wider base. Ripples above the bear flare into a fin, eddy along the piece, sprout another fin, and end in a narrow, heronlike face. As a whole, the work suggests a heron shooting in one direction, blended with an oppositely plunging fish.

The drum is said to produce a sound just on the verge of human hearing, and its images similarly float on the verge of interpretation. Unlike stacked, discrete totem-pole figures, they don't clearly interrelate. The dreamlike result seemed like a cryptic tribute to the earth's ecology, or a picture of a half-forgotten legend.

The drum, *Marriage,* and other works are on display at Gallery 212 through December 12. —*Laura Bien*

New exhibits this month:

Ann Arbor Art Center. *Julia Hardy: Watercolors* (through January 14). See 1 Wednesday. 994–8004.

Ann Arbor District Library. *Weimar, Capital of Culture; Transcendental Matter; Reflections of a Savage Nature; Teddy Bears Take Over* (December 3–31). 327–4510.

Clare Spitler Fine Art. *Art 2000* (December 12–January 28). See 12 Sunday. 662–8914.

EMU Ford Gallery. *Works by Martha Gelarden and Bruce Thayer* (December 1–17). See December 1. 487–1268.

Gallery 212. *Marriage* (through December 12). See review, above. *Countdown* (December 17–January 16). See 17 Friday. 665–8224.

Insight Gallery. *Through the Lens: Poetics of Birth* (December 1–31). See 4 Saturday. 214–9088.

Intermedia Gallery. *Paintings by Helen Fischer and Anne Heidel* (December 5–18). 528–3933.

Kerrytown Concert House. *Watercolors by Sam Knecht* (December 1–31). 769–2999.

Michigan Guild. *What, Then, Is Time?* (December 2–January 2). See 3 Friday. 662–3382.

Randy Parrish Fine Framing & Art. *Drawings and Lithographs by Albert Sterner* (December 21–January 31). 761–8253.

Kathleen Shea. *Tu-Shea* (December 4 & 5). See 4 Saturday. 973–6324.

U-M Clements Library. *The Panama Canal* (through March 10). 764–2347.

U-M Media Union. *Mirror of Simple Souls* (December 7–10). See 7 Tuesday. *Reprazent* (December 8–17). *Installation by Carolyn Kentis* (December 18–23). *Adjustment* (December 18–23). See 18 Saturday. 647–5275.

U-M Museum of Art. *Ansel Adams Photographs* (December 18–February 27). 764–0395.

U-M Pierpont Commons. *The Tapestry* (December 6–24). 764–7544.

U-M Slusser Gallery. *Prints by Dawn Simmons; Ceramics by Melissa Titus* (December 9–22). See 10 Friday. 763–4417.

U-M Special Collections Library. *From Papyri to King James: The Evolution of the English Bible* (December 8–January 29). 764–9377.

U-M School of Art and Design Gallery (Atys). *Paintings by Vincent Castagnacci; Jewelry by Nicole DesChamps* (December 12–January 5). See 12 Sunday. 996–2976.

Washington Street Gallery. *Shirley Crane Galliher: Small Works* (through January 8). See 5 Sunday. 761–2287.

For a complete listing of local galleries, see the 1999–2000 Ann Arbor Observer City Guide or www.arborweb.com.

ture. *7–9 p.m., Conor O'Neill's, 318 S. Main. Free. 665–2968.*

English Country Dancing: Ann Arbor Council for Traditional Music and Dance. *December 7 & 21.* Dance and workshop on historical and traditional English dances, led by Eric Arnold and Don Theyken, with live music by David West and Donna Baird. All dances taught; previous experience and partners not necessary. Comfortable nonslip walking shoes recommended. *7:15–9:45 p.m., Chapel Hill Condominium clubhouse, 3350 Green Rd. (north of Plymouth Rd.). $5. 662–5158.*

Community Education Series: Dawn Farm. *December 7 & 14.* Local professionals discuss substance abuse and related issues. Tonight: a panel discussion by Dawn Farm residents and staff members on **"Treatment and Recovery."** Also this month: social worker Ronald Harrison talks about **"Progression of Co-Dependency"** (December 14). *7:30 p.m., Dawn Farm, 6333 Stony Creek Rd., Ypsilanti. Free; donations accepted. Preregistration required. 485–8725.*

★**"Teens Using Drugs: How to Know What to Do": Community Action on Substance Abuse.** Talk by veteran local social worker Ron Harrison. *7:30–9 p.m., St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center auditorium, 5305 Elliott Dr. (off Huron River Dr.), Superior Twp. Free. 973–7892.*

★**"The Myths of Fasting: Herbs for Nourishment, Not for Punishment": People's Food Co-op Herbal Wisdom Series.** Talk by local holistic health practitioner Linda Feldt. *7:30–9:30 p.m., Crazy Wisdom Bookstore and Tea Room, 114 S. Main. Free. Preregistration required. 769–0095.*

★**"Patenting Drug Plants: The Fight for Ayahuasca": U-M Science Research Club.** U-M botany professor William Anderson discusses the issues at stake with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in deciding whether to patent this vine of the Amazon, a powerful hallucinogen which natives have long used for tribal ceremonies and whose ingredients are now coveted for their potential development into various drugs. Refreshments. *7:30–10 p.m., G-390 Dental Bldg., 1011 North University. (Entrance is from 3rd level of the Fletcher St. parking structure.) Free. 763–2566, 761–4320.*

★**"Celtic Lore": Druids of Shining Lakes Grove.** All invited to a talk by a druid TBA on Celtic lore, druidism, the cosmology and practices of local pagan group Shining Lakes Grove, and contemporary neopagan and druidic movements. Basic knowledge of paganism required. *7:30–9:30 p.m., Guild House, 802 Monroe. Free. 487–4931.*

★**"A Guide to the Bodhisattva Way of Life": Jewel Heart Buddhist Center.** *Every Tuesday.* Talk by Gelek Rinpoche, an incarnate lama from Tibet who currently lives in Ann Arbor. Occasionally, the talk is given by Rinpoche's longtime student Aura Glaser (former owner of Crazy Wisdom Bookstore) or a visiting guest speaker. *7:30 p.m., Jewel Heart Buddhist Center, 207 E. Washington. Free, but donations are accepted. 994–3387.*

★**German Speakers' Round Table.** *Every Tuesday.* All German speakers invited to join for conversation in a relaxed atmosphere. *7:30 p.m., Cafe Zola, 112 W. Washington. Free admission. 663–9069.*

★**Weekly Rehearsal: Huron Valley Harmonizers Chapter of SPEBSQSA.** *Every Tuesday.* All male singers invited to attend the weekly rehearsals of this local barbershop harmony chorus. Visitors welcome. *7:30 p.m., Trinity Lutheran Church, 1400 W. Stadium. Free to first-time visitors ($70 annual dues for those who join). Newcomers should call in advance for instructions. For information, call John Hancock at 769–8169.*

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EVENTS *continued*

★**Weekly Meeting and Rehearsal: Ypsilanti Community Band.** *Every Tuesday.* All musicians invited to join this 50-member post-high-school adult band (no auditions necessary) directed by Jerry Robbins. The band plays a variety of music, including show tunes, marches, and classics, at 2 indoor and 6 or 7 outdoor concerts per year. Music and stands provided. Visitors welcome. *7:30–9:30 p.m., EMU Alexander Bldg., room 105, Ypsilanti. Free. 485–4048, 769–2425.*

Ann Arbor Poetry Slam. Reading by a featured poet TBA. Preceded by open mike readings, which usually draw an engaging variety of accomplished poets and entertaining monologists in verse, and a "poetry slam," in which poets read one of their works in each round of a tournament-style competition for a $10 prize and the heady adrenaline rush that accompanies victory. The evening concludes with a second open mike session following the featured reading. *8–11 p.m. (doors open at 7:30 p.m.), Club Heidelberg (above the Heidelberg restaurant), 215 N. Main. $4. For information, call Larry Francis at 426–3451.*

Ann Arbor Singles Ballroom Dancers. *Every Tuesday.* Ballroom dancing to live music by Detroit-area bands. All singles invited; married couples also welcome. Refreshments. Preceded at 6:30 p.m. by a dance class ($3). Dress code observed. *8–11 p.m., Grotto Club of Ann Arbor, 2070 W. Stadium. $5 (members, $4). 930–0073.*

★**EMU Collegium Concert: EMU Music Department.** Anthony Iannaccone directs EMU music faculty and students in a program of 17th- and 18th-century choral and instrumental music that includes Vivaldi's Concerto in D Minor, Bach's Cantata no. 4 ("Christ lag in Todesbanden"), and Mozart's Mass in F Major for chorus, soloists, and chamber orchestra. *8 p.m., Holy Trinity Chapel, 511 W. Forest, Ypsilanti. Free. 487–2255.*

★**Chamber Recital: U-M School of Music.** U-M music school students perform works from the brass quintet repertory. *8 p.m., U-M Music School McIntosh Theater, 1100 Baits Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764–0594.*

★**Jazz Combos: U-M School of Music.** Performance by U-M music-student jazz ensembles. *8 p.m., Rackham Auditorium. Free. 764–0594.*

★**University Choirs Concert: U-M School of Music.** Theo Morrison conducts the University Choir and Jeff Douma conducts the Arts Chorale in a program of works by Telemann, Victoria, Bruckner, Hailstork, Vaughan Williams, and others. *8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 764–0594.*

Rick Danko: The Ark. Best known as the bassist and one of the lead vocalists on The Band, Danko has since had a successful career as a solo performer, collaborating with the likes of folk musician Eric Andersen and Norwegian singer-songwriter Jonas Fjeld. His live shows also include a heavy dose of Band classics. He is joined by guitarist Aaron Hurwitz. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $15 in advance at Borders on Liberty, Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, and all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

"Angels in America": Ann Arbor Civic Theater. See 2 Thursday. 8 p.m.

FILMS

MTF. "Princess Mononoke" (Hayao Miyazaki, 1999). See 2 Thursday. Mich., 7:30 p.m.

8 WEDNESDAY

"Holiday Potluck": Pittsfield Senior Center. *December 8 & 22.* All seniors invited to a potluck lunch (bring a dish to pass and your own table service). *11:30 a.m., Pittsfield Senior Center, 701 W. Ellsworth (at State). Donation. 996–3010.*

★**"Healthy Holiday Desserts and Delectables": U-M Turner Geriatrics Center.** Talk and cooking demonstration (with samples) by Kroger registered dietitian Diane Reynolds. *1–2 p.m., Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. Preregistration required. 998–9353.*

Annual Holiday Charity Auction: Friends and Neighbors of Saline. Live and silent auctions of numerous donated goods and services. Proceeds benefit Saline Area Social Services. *6 p.m., Saline District Library Brecon Room, 555 N. Maple Rd., Saline. Free admission. 429–0773.*

★**"Fitness Kickboxing": Whole Foods Market.** Ann Arbor Quest Center martial arts instructors lead a dynamic workout that includes kickboxing, calisthenics, stretching, and dance. Wear comfortable workout shoes and clothes. *6:30–8 p.m., Summers-Knoll Elementary, 2015 Manchester. Free. Preregistration required. 971–3366.*

★**"Traver Creek Day": Druids of Shining Lakes Grove.** All invited to help local pagans do environmental work on Traver Creek. *7–8:30 p.m., Leslie Science Center, 1831 Traver Rd. Free. 487–4931.*

★**Monthly Meeting: Michigan Chapter of Wild Ones.** All invited to meet club members, enjoy a potluck, and view a slide show of native plant gardening. Bring a dish to pass, place setting, and (members only) 5 or fewer slides of favorite native plants or native landscaping projects. *7 p.m., Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 332–1341.*

U-M Men's Basketball vs. Kent State. *7:30 p.m., Crisler Arena. $12 & $15. 764–0247.*

★**Monthly Meeting: Arrow Communication Association Amateur Radio Club.** All invited to discuss ham radio activities and issues. *7:30–9:30 p.m., Clonlara School, 1289 Jewett. Free to visitors ($20 annual dues). 930–6564.*

★**Flute Choir: EMU Music Department.** Julie Stone directs this EMU music student ensemble in a program that ranges from Baroque to contemporary works. *8 p.m., EMU Alexander Recital Hall, Lowell at E. Circle Dr., Ypsilanti. Free. 487–2255.*

★**Euphonium & Tuba Ensemble Concert: U-M School of Music.** Fritz Kaenzig directs the ensemble in a program of seasonal music and works by Chopin, Bulla, and Koetsier. *8 p.m., U-M Music School Recital Hall, 1100 Baits Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764–0594.*

"A Victorian Christmas: A Celebration in Brass and Voice": The Arbor Consort. Gerald Custer directs this local semiprofessional a cappella ensemble, costumed as carolers from Ann Arbor's early days, in a concert of European carols in several languages and traditional American carols. Also, Paul Eachus directs **The Dodworth Saxhorn Band,** an Ypsilanti band that uses pre–Civil War instruments to re-create the mid-19th-century brass bands that entertained Michiganders at public gatherings. The band performs in period costume, alone and with the Consort, presenting 19th-century brass band music as well as holiday tunes, sung by band vocalists Corie Root and Ted Badgerow. *8 p.m., Concordia College Chapel, 4090 Geddes Rd. at Earhart. $10 (students & seniors, $7). 477–9173, 665–7823.*

Paul Geremia: The Ark. A longtime local favorite, Geremia is one of the country's most renowned acoustic blues guitarists. Accompanying himself on piano and harmonica as well as guitar, he's also an engagingly rough-edged singer with a repertoire that includes traditional acoustic blues in a variety of regional rural and uptown idioms, as well as many originals in traditional styles. "Every song bears his unmistakable stamp: unerringly funky rhythm and guitar runs whose spectacular virtuosity is never overdone," says a *Boston Globe* reviewer. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. $12 (members, students, & seniors, $11) at the door only. 761–1451.*

FILMS

MTF. "Princess Mononoke" (Hayao Miyazaki, 1999). See 2 Thursday. Mich., 7:30 p.m. **U-M Michigan League. "Contact"** (Robert Zemeckis, 1997). Video showing of this sci-fi film about alien contact. Jodie Foster. FREE. 763–4652. League Underground, 911 North University, 8 p.m.

9 THURSDAY

"Bake Sale and Arts and Crafts Sale": Northeast Senior Center. Sale of home-baked goods and a variety of handmade crafts, made and sold by volunteers. Craftspersons can register for a table to display and sell work. *8:30 a.m.–1 p.m., Domino's Farms, Lobby G, 24 Frank Lloyd Wright Dr. (off Earhart Rd. north of Plymouth Rd.). Free admission. 996–0070.*

6th Annual Conger Holiday Art Market: Lucile B. Conger U-M Alumnae Group. Sale of works by more than 30 area artisans, including whimsical and classic jewelry, chenille blankets and scarves, boiled wool garments and accessories, folk art, stationery and paper goods, art dolls, Santas, snow people, angels, dried flowers, and more. Proceeds benefit college scholarships for women. Also, the Conger Group hosts its annual "Holiday Home Tour" today (see below). *9 a.m.–3 p.m., Barton Hills Country Club, 730 Country Club Rd. $5 admission. 761–4756.*

★**"Demystifying Interpretation": Ann Arbor Area Piano Teachers Guild.** Lecture and keyboard demonstration by Dorothy Taubman Institute faculty member Katherine Mizruchi. *10 a.m., Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 665–5346.*

"Conger Holiday Home Tour": Lucile B. Conger U-M Alumnae Group. A tour of four area homes, all within a short drive of each another, spectacularly decorated for the holidays by professional designers.

Proceeds fund scholarships for U-M women. Ticket includes admission to the Holiday Art Market (see above). *10 a.m.–8 p.m., various locations. Tickets $15 in advance at Dough Boys, Heslop's, and Westgate Nicola's Books and at the Conger holiday art market (see listing above) and each tour home. 761–4756.*

"NetWorks": Ann Arbor Area Chamber of Commerce. A popular monthly program that provides local businesspeople a chance to meet and learn about one another's businesses. This month's speaker TBA. *11:45 a.m.–1 p.m., Detroit Edison Center Community Room, 425 S. Main. $12 (members, $7) includes light refreshments. 214–0104.*

★**Denise Brennan-Nelson: Magic Carpet Books and Wonders.** This author reads **"Buzzy the Bumblebee,"** her children's story about overcoming obstacles. Also, signing. *4:30 p.m., Magic Carpet, Lamp Post Plaza, 2345 E. Stadium. Free. 973–8757.*

★**"Open House": Chapter 333 of the Experimental Aircraft Association.** All invited to a festive, informal gathering to meet club members and chat about club activities and volunteer opportunities. Refreshments. *5–8 p.m., Ann Arbor Airport Terminal, 801 Airport Dr. (off S. State just south of I-94). Free. For information, call Dennis Horton at 971–1794.*

"Internet2: Applications": Ann Arbor Software Council. Talk by U-M Corporation for Internet Development manager Ted Hanss. *5:15 p.m., 18 Wolverine Bldg., 3003 S. State at Eisenhower. $15 (AASC members, $10). Preregistration requested. 214–0101.*

★**Holiday Dinner: Ann Arbor Cage Bird Club.** All invited to a lasagna dinner. The dinner is free, but you must bring a bird-related item to be auctioned tonight. Also, bring your own place setting, beverage, and (if you like) a dessert to share. Bring your bird. *7 p.m., Ann Arbor Community Center, 625 N. Main. Free. (313) 928–4270.*

★**"Meditation for the Holidays": Arborland Borders.** Local meditation teacher Barbara Brodsky discusses meditation and demonstrates exercises to calm jangled holiday nerves. *7 p.m., Borders, 3527 Washtenaw. Free. 677–6948.*

"Beer Tasting: Seasonal Beers": Arbor Brewing Company. A chance to sample and learn about 2 dozen different spiced beers, old ales, meads, and other holiday favorites. Also, a drawing for beer-related prizes. The price of admission includes unlimited beer sampling and a light appetizer buffet. *7–9 p.m., Arbor Brewing Company, 114 E. Washington. Tickets $20 in advance and (if available) at the door. 213–1393.*

★**"Songwriters Open Mike": Oz's Music Environment.** All songwriters invited. Hosted by Jim Novak. The performances are videotaped and edited for a weekly show on cable channel 9 or 17 on Tuesdays, 8–9 p.m. *7:30–9:30 p.m., Oz's, 1920 Packard. Free. 662–8283.*

★**Concert: U-M Residential College Singers.** Katherine Fitzgibbon directs a choir of RC students in works by Haydn, Bach, and Copland. *8 p.m., RC Auditorium, East Quad, 701 East University. Free. 763–0176.*

★**Barnhill Band: EMU Music Department.** This 75-piece EMU town-gown ensemble, directed by Jerry Robbins, performs a program of seasonal and holiday choral and instrumental music. *8 p.m., Pease Auditorium, EMU campus, W. Cross at College Place, Ypsilanti. Free. 487–2255.*

★**Creative Arts Orchestra: U-M School of Music.** U-M music professor Ed Sarath directs this improvisational ensemble that adds bassoons, cellos, and oboes to traditional jazz instruments such as saxes and percussion. Program TBA. *8 p.m., Rackham Auditorium. Free. 764–0594.*

Boys Choir of Harlem: University Musical Society. Founded in 1968 to provide inner-city children with opportunities for discipline and creative development, this world-famous youth chorus, said to equal the celebrated Vienna Boys' Choir in quality, has performed its repertoires of spirituals, gospel, jazz, seasonal, and classical music everywhere from St. Paul's Cathedral in London to the White House. The choir is featured on the soundtracks of *Jungle Fever, Malcolm X,* and *Glory* and has released three albums, *The Sound of Hope, Up in Harlem,* and the recent *Christmas with the Boys Choir.* Related event: BCOH director Walter Turnbull gives a talk today on **"Lift Every Voice: Expecting the Most and Getting the Best from All of God's Children"** (3 p.m., U-M music school recital hall, 1100 Baits Dr. off Broadway, North Campus). *8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Tickets $12–$28 in advance at Burton Tower and (if available) at the door. To charge by phone, call 764–2538 or (800) 221–1229.*

Rickie Lee Jones: Prism Productions. *Postponed from November.* First local performance in more than 5 years by this celebrated pop-jazz troubadour, who has been one of the most compelling and unprepossessingly enigmatic figures on the pop scene ever since she burst out of nowhere in 1979 with a best-selling LP. Like the somber antics of a child playing dress-up, Jones's lyrics embrace a variety of expressive styles—from the blues to Beat poetry to an impressionistic private mythology—to explore and make palpable a turbulent inner world of unrealized hopes and fears. Her distinctive vocal style is shaped by a similar tension between exploratory and self-dramatizing instincts, especially in the dynamics of her trademark slurred diction. Her voice seems always to be moving back and forth across—or hovering in—the threshold between private reverie and public expression. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $30 in advance at SKR Pop & Rock, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, and all other Ticketmaster outlets; and (if available) a higher price TBA at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

"Dance and Related Arts Concert": U-M Dance Department. *December 9–11.* U-M dance majors present an evening of multimedia collaborations with student and faculty composers, musicians, theatrical designers, sculptors, photographers, vocalists, and creative writers. The pieces in this year's concert explore millennial themes. *8 p.m. (doors open at 7 p.m.), U-M Dance Bldg. Betty Pease Studio, 1310 North University Ct. $5 at the door only. 763–5460, 763–5461.*

"Merrily We Roll Along": Washtenaw Community College Musical Theater. *December 9–12.* Ron Baumanis directs this bittersweet Stephen Sondheim musical. The story begins in 1980 with three old friends who are separated and disillusioned, and travels back to the 50s when the pals were brimming with excitement and enthusiasm. Songs include "Old Friends," "Not a Day Goes By," and "Our Time." Cast: Tod Barker, William Quigley, and Catherine Cherney. *8 p.m., WCC Morris J. Lawrence Towsley Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Tickets $15 (students, seniors, and children 18 & under, $10) in advance and at the door. 973–3450.*

"The Tempest": U-M Theater Department. *December 9–12.* U-M drama professor Philip Kerr directs U-M drama students and a stellar town-and-gown mix of guest artists in Shakespeare's culminating work, a visionary romance set on a magical island ruled by the enigmatic but benevolent sorcerer Prospero and his beautiful daughter Miranda. Prospero is in fact the exiled duke of Milan, who conjures up a storm that shipwrecks his old enemies upon his island. *The Tempest* is filled with verse and song (including the famous "Full fathom five") and contains some of Shakespeare's most gorgeously haunting poetry. Guest artists include Kerrytown Concert House owner Deanna Relyea, U-M voice professors Shirley Verrett and John Morris, choreographer Peter Sparling and dancers from his troupe, local actor-playwright Malcolm Tulip, veteran local actor (and U-M law professor emeritus) Bev Pooley, and U-M drama professors Leigh Woods, Erik Fredericksen, John Neville-Andrews, Martin Walsh, and director Kerr, who stars as Prospero. *8 p.m., Power Center. Tickets $14 & $18 (students, $7) at the Michigan League Box Office in advance and at the door. To charge by phone, call 764–0450.*

"Our Town": P. T. D. Productions. *December 9–12 & 16–18.* Marie Jones directs Thornton Wilder's Pulitzer Prize–winning portrait of a small town at the beginning of the century, a beloved classic of American theater for 60 years. Cast: Dennis Platte, Richard Heberlein, Diana Much, Janet Rich, Ken MacGregor, Shannon Hall, and Dave Wright. *8 p.m., Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron St., Ypsilanti. $12 (students and seniors, $9) in advance and at the door. 483–7345.*

"Not Waving": Performance Network Professional Season. See 2 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Angels in America": Ann Arbor Civic Theater. See 2 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Bill Thomas: Mainstreet Comedy Showcase. *December 9–11.* Thomas is a popular stand-up comic from Detroit with a wisecracking wit, acid tongue, and affable manner who specializes in fresh topical humor. Preceded by two opening acts. Alcohol is served. *8:30 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. Tickets $10 reserved seating in advance, $12 general admission at the door. Group rates and other discounts available. 996–9080.*

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation. "Citizen Kane" (Orson Welles, 1941). This story of a newspaper baron's tumultuous rise and fall, made when Welles was 25, is often called the best film ever made. Stunning cinematography. FREE. 668–8480. Michigan Theater, 9 a.m. & 4 p.m. **"Princess Mononoke"** (Hayao Miyazaki, 1999). See 2 Thursday. Mich., 7:30 p.m.

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10 FRIDAY

"Tiny Tots Tea Time": Leslie Science Center (Ann Arbor Parks Department). Hands-on science activities and free play for kids ages 1–3 (accompanied by a caregiver). Snacks provided; dress for the outdoors. *10–11:30 a.m., Leslie Science Center, 1831 Traver Rd. $5 (nonresidents, $6). 662–7802.*

★**"Kwanzaa Celebration": U-M Center for Afroamerican and African Studies.** A chance to learn more about and prepare for this 6-day festival (December 26–January 1), whose Swahili name means "first fruits," celebrating the harvest, family, and community. Local vendors offer African-inspired jewelry, artifacts, art, and gifts for sale. An adjacent room features an exhibit explaining Kwanzaa's history and meaning. Also, a performance by the local **Hands of Praise Children's Gospel Choir** (4 p.m.). *Noon–7 p.m., CAAS library, 211 West Hall, 550 E. University. Free. 764–5518.*

★**The Yiddish Group: Jewish Community Center.** All invited to listen to readings and discuss Yiddish literature selections to be announced. Also, singing of Yiddish songs. *1:30–3 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 971–0990.*

★**"Michigan's Heritage Barns": Arborland Borders Books and Music.** Author-photographer Mary Keithan discusses her book, a portrayal of rural Michigan life through a collection of barn photos and accompanying stories about their owners. *6 p.m., Borders, 3527 Washtenaw. Free. 677–6948.*

★**MFA Thesis Exhibition: U-M School of Art and Design.** Opening reception for this exhibit of ceramics by Melissa Titus and prints by Dawn Simmons (see Galleries listing). *6–8 p.m., Art and Architecture Slusser Gallery, 2000 Bonisteel, North Campus. Free. 936–2082.*

Scandinavian Christmas Celebration: Ann Arbor Scandinavian Club. This family-oriented party features a Lucia train (a Swedish children's pageant) and other activities. Santa Claus is on hand. Smorgasbord with glogg (a spiced seasonal fruit-and-wine beverage). Open to anyone interested in Scandinavian culture. *6–9 p.m. Zion Lutheran Church, 1501 W. Liberty. $4 (children, $2 child; families, $10) 741–0895, 995–8476.*

Hanukkah Celebration: Temple Beth Emeth. The temple's brotherhood serve a family latke dinner, followed by family services at 7:30 p.m. Includes Hanukkah songs and lighting of the temple's menorah. *6:15–7:30 p.m., Temple Beth Emeth, 2309 Packard. $8 (children 4–6, $4; 3 and under, free). Preregistration required. 665–4744.*

★**"Maize 'n' Blue Intrasquad": U-M Women's Gymnastics.** The U-M women's gymnastics team, a perennial Big 10 champion that finished 2nd to Georgia in the NCAA championships last year, prepares for the 1999–2000 season with an intrasquad meet. *7 p.m., Cliff Keen Arena, S. State at Hoover. Free. 764–0247.*

★**"The Wisdom of Life Through My Patients": Barnes & Noble.** Dearborn dermatologist Thomas Waldinger discusses and signs this inspirational collection of his patients' stories, observations, and philosophies. *7 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3245 Washtenaw. Free. 677–6475.*

★**"Personality, Three Basic Types: Reason, Will, and Emotion": Great Lakes Pathwork.** All invited to read and informally discuss this lecture on the spiritual and psychological discipline known as the Pathwork, as channeled by the late Eva Pierrakos. Printed lectures available at the meeting. *7 p.m., Co-Housing Common House, 424 Little Lake Dr. Free. 665–6231, 663–5853.*

★**"And Baby Makes Seven": U-M Basement Arts Theater.** *December 10 & 11.* U-M student Jessica Spenny directs Pulitzer Prize–winner Paula Vogel's story about a doting dad willing to go to outrageous extremes to protect his newborn. *7 & 11 p.m., Arena Stage (Frieze basement), 105 S. State St. Free. 764–6800.*

U-M Ice Hockey vs. Nebraska-Omaha. *December 10 & 11. 7:30 p.m. (Dec. 10) & 7 p.m. (Dec. 11), Yost Ice Arena, 1016 S. State at McKinley. $10–$17. 764–0247.*

★**Monthly Meeting: Professional Volunteer Corps.** All singles 25 and older invited to join this organization that provides volunteers for various community projects. Each month, members vote on which service projects to sponsor and plan upcoming social outings. Preceded at 7 p.m. by socializing and orientation for newcomers. *7:30 p.m., NEW Center, 1100 N. Main. Free. 747–6801.*

★**"Travel": Older Lesbians Organizing.** All lesbians invited to an informal discussion. *7:30 p.m.,*

Common Language Bookstore, 215 S. Fourth Ave. Free. 482–2996.

★**Monthly Bardic Night: Druids of Shining Lakes Grove.** All invited to join local pagans in an evening of free-form drumming, singing, poetry, and storytelling. *7:30–11 p.m., Inter-Cooperative Council Education Center, 1522 Hill St. (in the carriage house behind the co-op buildings). Free. 487–4931.*

"Zen . . . Just This, Just Now, Just Here": Essence Point. Zen meditation and chanting, followed by open discussion. Led by Sukha Murray, resident priest at Ann Arbor's Zen Buddhist Temple. *7:30 p.m., Unity Church, 4599 Carpenter Rd. $10. 913–9830.*

Empatheater. This local theater group in its 6th season, directed by psychologist Sara Schreiber, invites audience members to write down their concerns and life situations, which become a springboard for the actors' improvisations. Theatergoers watch their stories come alive, and can even at times participate in the dramatic action. This month's topic: **"Time."** Schreiber describes the process as "a combination of psychodrama, improvisational theater, and drama therapy." *7:30 p.m., Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Tickets $12 & $15 (students and seniors, $8) in advance and at the door. 769–2999.*

★**"Festival Choir Concert": St. Luke Lutheran Church.** The church choir sings a selection of carols, followed by a performance of Vivaldi's *Gloria,* with string quartet and organ. All invited. *7:30 p.m., St. Luke Lutheran Church, 4205 Washtenaw. Free. 971–0550.*

Indigo Girls: Prism Productions. This popular duo from Decatur, Georgia, is known for their lean vocal harmonies, at once sweet and pungent, and for their friendly, affecting musical blend of folk simplicity, country grit, and pop charm. The material on their acclaimed new CD, *Come On Now Social,* ranges from the enchanting acoustic harmonies of "Soon to Be Nothing" to the soulful, horn-accented pop of "Peace Tonight" to the grunge-inflected guitar-driven hard rock of the anthemic "Go." Opening acts TBA. *7:30 p.m., EMU Convocation Center, Hewitt Rd. (north of Washtenaw), Ypsilanti. Tickets $22.50–$35 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and all other Ticketmaster outlets. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS, 487–2282, or (248) 645–6666.*

★**"Persian Poetry Night": U-M Center for Middle Eastern and North African Studies.** All invited to bring a favorite Persian poem to share, or come to listen. *8 p.m., 1644 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 764–0350.*

"End of the Millennium Poetry Explosion": Shaman Drum Bookshop/Borders. Award-winning poets from Ann Arbor and around the nation converge for an evening of poetry and spoken word performance examining the state of humanity and the world at the new millennium. Performers include Ann Arbor Grand Slam Champion **Jeff Kass,** singer-songwriter **Greg Epstein** of the local alternative rock band Sugarpill, National Poetry Slam Champion **Reggie Gibson,** and noted poets **Al Letson** (Florida), **Bassey Ipke** (New York), and **Kwan Booth** (Virginia). Also, **1999 National Poetry Slam 4-poet teams** from San Francisco (the national champion) and Detroit (a national semifinalist), and more. All proceeds benefit creative writing workshops at the Neutral Zone, the local teen center. *8 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets $12 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office, all other Ticketmaster outlets, and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

Second Friday Advanced English Frolic. English country dancing for experienced dancers. Fast pace, with limited walk-throughs. Don Theyken calls to music by A Perfect Match. *8 p.m., Gretchen's House VI, 2340 Oak Valley Dr. $7. 937–1552.*

★**Women's Chamber Chorus.** Gini Robison directs this independent local women's chorus in a program that includes both Christmas carols from other countries and standard carols arranged by John Rutter. *8 p.m., Milan Baptist Church, 31 Ferman St., Milan. Free. 677–0678.*

★**EMU Women's Chorus: EMU Music Department.** Ernest Brandon directs this EMU music-student choir in a program of seasonal music. *8 p.m., Holy Trinity Chapel, 511 W. Forest, Ypsilanti. Free. 487–2255.*

★**Symphony Band and Concert Band Concert: U-M School of Music.** H. Robert Reynolds leads the Symphony Band and James Tapia the Concert Band in a program TBA. *8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 764–0594.*

Frederica von Stade: University Musical Society. This extraordinary mezzo-soprano is beloved by audiences around the world for her vocal agility and delightful personality. Von Stade is known especially as a performer of bel canto, a mode that emphasizes beauty of sound, as distinguished from more declamatory, dramatic singing. She has also crossed over effortlessly into many different vocal styles in the course of her more than 30-year career. In addition to many operatic and orchestral recordings, she also collaborated with radio personality (and amateur singer) Garrison Keillor on *Songs of the Cat,* a playful release described as "classically inspired tunes, specially tailored for cats and those who adore them." Pianist is U-M music professor **Martin Katz,** a celebrated artist who regularly accompanies such stars as Marilyn Horne and Cecilia Bartoli. Tonight's program includes songs by Faure, Schumann, Debussy, and Rorem, and the delightfully humorous "Amor" by Ann Arbor's own Pulitzer Prize winner, **William Bolcom.** Before the concert, Ann Arbor District Library music specialist **Richard LeSueur** talks in detail about these songs, giving background on several rarely heard works and a group of American songs (7 p.m., Michigan League). *8 p.m., Lydia Mendelssohn Theater, Michigan League. Tickets $35 & $50 in advance at Burton Tower and (if available) at the door. To charge by phone, call 764–2538 or (800) 221–1229.*

★**"Balm in Gilead": U-M Musical Theater Program.** *December 10–13.* U-M musical theater students present a nonmusical play, Lanford Wilson's popular slice-of-life drama set in a coffee shop on Broadway. *8 p.m., Trueblood Theater, Frieze Bldg., 105 S. State. Free, but tickets (available in advance at the Michigan League Box Office) required. 764–0450.*

"Dance and Related Arts Concert": U-M Dance Department. See 9 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Angels in America": Ann Arbor Civic Theater. See 2 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Not Waving": Performance Network Professional Season. See 2 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"The Tempest": U-M Theater Department. See 9 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Merrily We Roll Along": Washtenaw Community College Musical Theater. See 9 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Our Town": P. T. D. Productions. See 9 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Bill Thomas: Mainstreet Comedy Showcase. See 9 Thursday. 8:30 & 10:45 p.m.

FILMS

M-FLICKS. "Dead Poets Society" (Peter Weir, 1989). A charismatic English teacher's love of poetry inspires his students to a glorious independence that doesn't amuse the school administration. Robin Williams. $3. 763–1107. Nat. Sci., 7 & 9:30 p.m.

11 SATURDAY

★**Specialty Show: Midwest Collie Club.** Purebred collies, including white, blue, merle, sable, and tricolor types of the smooth (short-haired) and rough (Lassie-like) varieties compete for conformity to American Kennel Club breed standards of looks and movement. Also, various obedience competitions. Refreshments available. *Note:* The Brighton Collie Club holds a specialty show for its club members' dogs tomorrow at the Wight Center (7 a.m.). *7 a.m.–5:30 p.m., Wight Center, 1575 E. North Territorial Rd., Whitmore Lake. Free admission. (248) 437–1295.*

Monthly Show: Huron Gun Collectors. *December 11 & 12.* Some 100 dealers and collectors offer guns, knives, ammunition, and other hunting equipment, including antiques and collectibles. Food concessions. *9 a.m.–5 p.m., Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Admission $3 (members, $1). (810) 227–1637.*

Handcraft Sale: Sales Exchange Refugee Rehabilitation Volunteers. *December 11 & 12.* A wide variety of handcrafted items by Third World artisans. SERRV is an ecumenical nonprofit marketing organization designed to provide a major alternative sales outlet for artisans in economically developing areas of the world. *9 a.m.–noon (Dec. 11) & 8:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. (Dec. 12), Zion Lutheran Church, 1501 W. Liberty. Free admission. Wheelchair-accessible (use entrance in back of the church). 663–0362.*

"Annual Cookie Walk": First United Methodist Church. Stroll through a homemade cookie bazaar and select your own or prepackaged assortments (delivery available). Proceeds benefit local and international charities. *9 a.m.–noon, First United Methodist Church, 120 S. State. Free admission. 741–0456.*

★**Work Day: Nichols Arboretum.** All invited to join this monthly outing to combat invasive shrubs in an ongoing effort to restore savanna-like conditions around the Arb's Dow Field prairie. Concludes with a discussion of prairie ecosystems and restoration techniques. Bring clippers and work gloves. Held rain or shine. *9 a.m.–noon, meet at the bench on the western end of the prairie. Free. 998–9540.*

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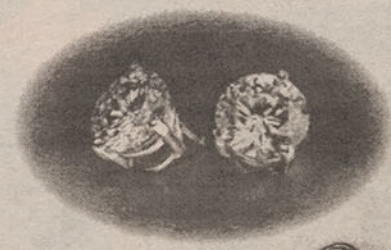

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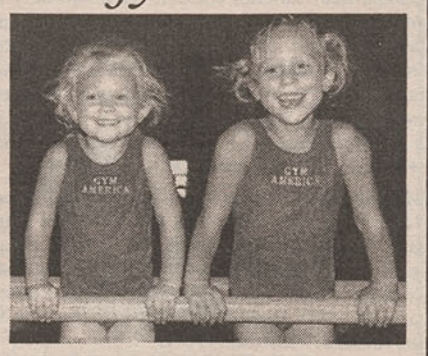

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★**Monthly Meeting: AGLOW International.** Group discussion on the theme **"Christmas Celebration."** AGLOW is a network of Christian women who meet for prayer and community outreach. Preceded at 9:15 a.m. by a light breakfast. *9:30–11:30 a.m., Courthouse Square Apts., 100 S. 4th Ave. Free. 665–4246.*

★**Materials Recovery Facility Monthly Open House: Ann Arbor Solid Waste Department.** *December 11 & 14.* Guided tours of the city's new recycling and trash disposal center. This month's special activities include workshops on how to make a **birdhouse** from dried gourds (grown at the city's compost site) and a recycled **bird feeder** from a paper milk carton or 2-liter soda bottle (bring your own). *10 a.m.–noon (Dec. 11) & 3–5 p.m. (Dec. 14), Materials Recovery Facility, 4120 Platt Rd. Free. 994–2807.*

★**"Dexter's Victorian Christmas": Dexter Area Chamber of Commerce.** See 4 Saturday. Following today's festivities, the annual **Holiday Light Parade** features cars and floats decorated with lights (6 p.m.). 11 a.m.–5 p.m.

★**Holiday Concert: Ann Arbor School for the Performing Arts.** Seasonal music by four youth ensembles from this local music school. Program includes Carter Pann's *A Scottish Carol,* Schiassi's *Christmas Symphony,* selections from Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker Suite,* and more. *Noon & 2 p.m., Michigan Theater. Free, donations accepted. 995–4625.*

★**Laszlo Slomovits: Traver Village Nicola's Books.** This multi-instrumentalist from the popular local acoustic duo Gemini reads from his first book of poetry, ***Our Eyes Are Its Wings,*** a collection of poems ranging from haikulike reflections on nature to pieces about the Holocaust and Hungary's 1956 revolution. Also, signing. *1–3 p.m., Nicola's Books, Traver Village Shopping Center, 2607 Plymouth Rd. (the old Webster's site). Free. 662–4110.*

★**"Holiday Concert": Brave New Works.** Chris Younghoon Kim directs this local 20th-century-music volunteer ensemble of U-M students, graduate students, and alumni vocalists and musicians. The program includes *Where Grief Slumbers,* Earl Kim's lovely, meditative setting, for soprano, harp, and strings, of Beckett's translation of Rimbaud's poem. Also, two works by Aaron Copland, *Piano Variations* with guest pianist Andrea Schneider and *Eight Poems of Emily Dickinson. 2 p.m., Northside Community Church, 929 Barton Dr. Free, but donations accepted. 1–800–896–7340.*

"Skate with Santa": Ann Arbor Parks Department. Santa is on hand to skate with kids of all ages and hand out holiday treats. Parents are invited to bring their cameras. *2:30–4:30 p.m., Buhr Park outdoor ice rink, 2751 Packard Rd. (next to Cobblestone Farm). $3 (youths age 17 & over and seniors age 60 & over, $2.50). Skate rentals available ($2). 971–3228.*

★**Safe Families 2000: American Red Cross.** One-hour disaster preparedness workshop for families, including tips about weather, fire, and Y2K emergencies. Also, display and demo of a 72-hour emergency supply kit. *3 p.m., American Red Cross, 2729 Packard. Free. Preregistration required. 971–5300.*

"Sing-Along with Santa": Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra. This popular annual family concert features a carol sing led by local singer-actor Larry Henkel as Santa, with piano accompaniment by AASO business manager Lori Cheek. Also, a visiting ensemble TBA performs holiday music. Refreshments follow the concert. *3:30–4:30 p.m., Bethlehem United Church of Christ, 423 S. Fourth Ave. Tickets $5 (children 12 and under), $10 (adults), $25 (families), & $50 (patrons), available in advance at the AASO office, 527 E. Liberty, and at the door. 994–4801.*

U-M Men's Basketball vs. Duke. *4 p.m., Crisler Arena. $12 & $15. 764–0247.*

★**African American Book Club: Westgate Nicola's Books.** All invited to discuss ***Blessings,*** Shekesha Jackson's novel about 4 women coworkers who share painful parenting struggles. *4 p.m., Nicola's Books, Westgate Shopping Center. Free. Information: Veleria Banks at (734) 942–6013.*

Winterfest Benefit: Michigan Friends Center. Multi-instrumentalist **Laz Slomovits,** singer and flutist **Helen Slomovits,** and harpist **Laurel Federbush** perform music celebrating the beauty and diversity of the earth. The program includes sing-alongs, as well as material from each artist's recently released solo CD. Followed by a supper. Also, a homemade gifts bazaar (1–7 p.m.). Donations support the Friends Center. *4 p.m., Michigan Friends Center in the Friends Lake Community, 7748 Clark*

classical music

Paul McCreesh & the Gabrieli Consort

The gaudy glories of the Baroque

For most classical conductors and instrumentalists, the older you are, the better people think of you. Take Leonard Bernstein: he went from being extremely controversial and even reviled in New York in the 1960s to being celebrated as a living legend in the 1980s. Some reputations do fade, but it often appears that however odd or even weird a performer may have been considered in his youth, time seems to bring acceptance and even lionization.

The main exception to this rule seems to be in the early-music movement, where successive generations of young lions, with ever deeper historical knowledge and advanced techniques, are always pushing their seniors aside. Paul McCreesh, conductor of the Gabrieli Consort and Players, is an especially large young lion. His ensemble specializes in the biggest works of the Baroque era: Gabrieli's massive pieces for several brass bands, the gaudy glories of Venetian vespers, Biber's opulent *Missa Salisburgensis,* and a stunning series of Christmas music CDs. The Baroque period was one of great affluence, in which courts would commission magnificent ceremonial works for grand occasions, and McCreesh has recorded some of the period's most wonderful Christmas pieces for orchestra and chorus. Handel's monumental *Messiah*—an Easter oratorio that nineteenth-century custom turned into a Christmas standard—is the most familiar, but McCreesh has also made recordings of Schütz's *Christmas Vespers* and Praetorius's *Lutheran Christmas Mass.*

The latter work is featured in the Gabrieli Consort and Players' UMS concert Tuesday, December 14, at St. Francis Church. A gargantuan work for a multihued instrumental ensemble of winds, brass, strings, and organ, plus a chorus and vocal soloists, the *Lutheran Christmas Mass* is a gorgeously scored work that glorifies not only the birth of the Christian Savior but also the court that could afford to commission it. McCreesh's recording of the work was released a couple of seasons back, and local stores sold record numbers of it. Now's your chance to hear it in all its dazzling brilliance conducted by one of the stars of the early-music movement.

—Jim Leonard

Lake Rd. (off Waterloo Rd. west of Chelsea). Donations welcome. 475–1892.

"Kids Night/Parents Night": Ann Arbor Quest Center. Kids 4–14 invited to an evening of fun activities, including an introduction to martial arts, games, and a pizza party. *5:30–9 p.m., Ann Arbor Quest Center, 2111 Packard. $10 ($5 per additional child). Preregistration required. 332–1800.*

"Humanikins": Sarah's Attic. Costumed human "mannequins" create a series of brief tableaux from various eras, in the store windows. *6–8 p.m., Sarah's Attic, 637 S. Main. Free. 622–8023.*

Game Night: Druids of Shining Lakes Grove. All invited to join local pagans for an evening of games, snacks, and socializing. Bring your favorite game to play. *7–11 p.m., 1216 Jay Avenue, Ypsilanti. (Take Michigan Ave. to Grove St., go south on Grove to Georgina, then left on Georgina to Jay.) $6 at the door. 487–4931.*

★**"And Baby Makes Seven": U-M Basement Arts Theater.** See 10 Friday. 2 & 7 p.m.

★**"I Miss Your Smile": The Amy and Lisa Fund.** Kid-friendly release party for this CD, a collection of songs dedicated to the memory of Amy Fedel, an 8-year-old who was killed in 1998 by a drunk driver. The songs were written by her friends, sister, and dad, Mike Fedel. The program includes kids' music performed by Amy's friends, as well as folk-flavored songs by Mike Fedel, Katie Geddes and the Usual Suspects, and the Band of Love. Proceeds from sales of the CD ($15) are donated to MADD, U-M Med Rehab, and other appropriate programs. *7:30 p.m., FUMC Green Wood Church, 1001 Green Rd. at Glazier Way. Free. 998–0360.*

5th Annual "Evening of Sacred Song." Seasonal songs from many traditions. Jeanne Mackey directs a chorus of local performers that includes Alain Bantsimba, Barbara Stahler-Sholk, Dale Petty, Efrain Jose Rosales, Gaewinn, Hy Kornbluh, Julia B, LaRon Williams, Laura Machida, Lia Rose, Lisa Bashert, Andrew Schreiber, Rhonda Williams, Robin Williams, and ShuNahSii Rose, and the Blossom Children, a children's chorus led by Jeannine Palms. Proceeds donated to Peace Neighborhood Center. *7:30 p.m., Genesis of Ann Arbor, Temple Beth Emeth/St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 2309 Packard. Sliding scale donation $5–$25 (children under 5, free). 741–8541, 997–9775.*

"An Olden Christmas": Ann Arbor Grail Singers. Concert of seasonal music spanning the 10th through 17th centuries by this noted local early-music vocal ensemble that is celebrating the recent release of its first CD of sacred music, recorded in St. Andrew's Church in Saline. The program includes Gregorian chant, two works by Italian nuns, and anonymous folk carols from the 15th and 16th centuries, and works by Renaissance composers Vit-

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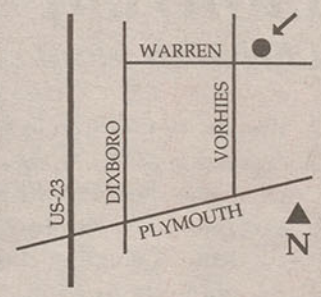

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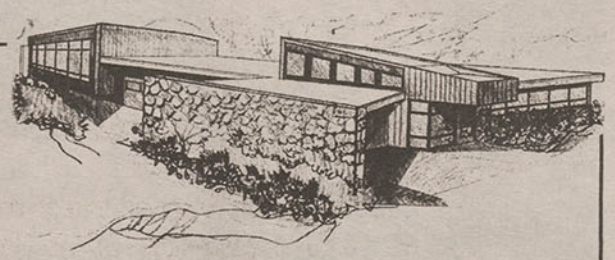

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EVENTS *continued*

toria, Palestrina, and Monteverdi. *7:30 p.m., St. Andrew's Church, 910 Austin (off Michigan Ave. just west of Ann Arbor–Saline Rd.), Saline. Donation. 995–5320.*

Steven Curtis Chapman: U-M Office of Major Events. Concert by this popular contemporary Christian singer-songwriter and guitarist, a 9-time Gospel Music Association Songwriter of the Year. He's a straight-from-the-heart singer and a skilled songwriter whose works range from upbeat rock praise songs to meditative ballads. Chapman's recent work reflects influences by Collective Soul, The Wallflowers, and The Dave Matthews Band. Tonight's program may include hits from Chapman's recently released CD *Speechless,* including "Fingerprints of God," the lively, wall-of-sound "Dive," and the moving tribute to families who have lost children, "With Hope." *7:30 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Tickets $27 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and all other Ticketmaster outlets, and at the door. 763–TKTS.*

"Ballroom Dancing Night": Pittsfield Township Parks and Recreation Department. Ballroom dancing to recorded music from the 40s through the 80s. Preceded at 7 p.m. by an introduction to basic dance steps and ballroom dancing styles by Sue Baries, Washtenaw County's best-known ballroom dance instructor. All invited, singles as well as couples. Refreshments. *8–10:30 p.m., Pittsfield Twp. Recreation Hall, S. State at Ellsworth. $3. 996–3056.*

"Victorian Holiday Ball": Grand Traditions Vintage Dance Academy. Vintage ballroom and traditional dancing to live music. Includes waltzes, polkas, quadrilles, and country dances. Singles and couples of all abilities invited. Victorian attire encouraged but not required. Also, two pre-ball workshops: an etiquette and set dances workshop (1–2:30 p.m.) and an advanced mazurka quadrille (2:30–4 p.m.). Refreshments. *8–11 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (1/2 mile south of I-94). $25 ($40 per couple) includes workshops. Workshops only: $5 each. Preregistration required. 429–0014.*

"Songs for a Winter Night": St. Joseph Mercy Health System. Local singer-guitarist (and county deputy sheriff) **Peter Perez** performs mellow, upbeat songs by Jim Croce, John Denver, Cat Stevens, and others. A benefit for Hospice of Washtenaw. *8–10 p.m., Sweetwaters Cafe, 107 S. Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (at Michigan Ave.), Saline. $5 donation requested. 327–3413.*

★**Contemporary Directions Ensemble: U-M School of Music.** This adventurous U-M music-student ensemble presents a program of 20th-century music TBA. *8 p.m., Rackham Auditorium. Free. 764–0594.*

"Un Soir de Neige": Vocal Arts Ensemble. Marisa Bond directs this 17-voice chorus in an a cappella program that features Poulenc's "Un Soir de Neige" and three settings of "Ave Maria" by Parsons, Biebl, and Stravinsky. Also, carols, including "Betelehemu," with congo drum. *8 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division at Catherine. $5 (children 12 & under, free) at the door only. 971–9774.*

"4th Annual Holiday Festival": Michigan Chamber Brass. Paul Eachus directs this polished local brass and percussion ensemble in a program of seasonal and baroque favorites arranged for brass ensemble. The program ranges from the well-known "Winter" segment of Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons* and J. S. Bach's Chaconne in D Minor and "In Dulci Jubilo" to Mel Torme's "The Christmas Song" and 3 John Rutter carols, "The Shepherd's Pipe Carol," "Ding Dong Merrily on High," and "Sleigh Ride." Trumpeter David Kuehn is featured soloist in "Gabriel's Message," a traditional Basque carol arranged by Roger Harvey. *8 p.m., Huron Hills Baptist Church, 3150 Glazier Way (between Huron Pkwy. and Green Rd.). Tickets $10 (students & seniors, $7; group rates available) at the door or in advance at 485–2902.*

"Saxophones Celebrate the Century": Kerrytown Concert House "Classical Series". Concert of 20th-century saxophone works. Performers are U-M wind and percussion department chair **Donald Sinta,** local pianist **Kathryn Goodson,** and area saxophonists John Sampen, Adam Pendleton, David Lichtman, Jacob Chmara, and Joseph LeBlanc. The program includes the world premiere of Harvard music professor Bernard Rands's *MEMO 6,* Christian Lauba's *Balafon,* Debussy's *Rhapsody,* U-M music professor Ellwood Derr's *Passacaglia in Celebration of Carl Orff,* and works by Alfred Descencios, Gunther Schuller, and others. *8 p.m., Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $10, $15, & $25. Reservations suggested. 769–2999.*

★**"Muse Alive Poetry and Music Series": Space-K Productions.** Poetry reading by EMU creative writing grad student **Brian Tell,** contact improv dance by **Suzanne Willets-Brooks and Jennifer Hickey,** and musical performers TBA. Also, a **poetry open mike.** *8–10 p.m., Tucker's Cafe, 44 E. Cross St., Ypsilanti. Free; donations accepted. 485–3454.*

Having worn out his reindeer by visiting Washtenaw County Dec. 1, 3 (twice), 4 (four times), 5, 10, & 11 (three times), Santa resorts to his bike Dec. 12, pausing for pictures with kids. Other visits: Dec. 14, 18, & 19 (twice).

Dick Siegel: The Ark. This veteran local singer-songwriter is an immensely gifted and versatile composer whose songs offer all sorts of immediate pleasures, both serious and comic, as well as a resonant staying power. He was one of the winners of the prestigious songwriting competition at the 1991 Kerrville (Texas) Folk Festival, and a later Kerrville performance provoked *Austin Chronicle* reviewer Steve Brooks to single him out as the "most musically sophisticated of the new folkies." His early hits like "Angelo's" and "What Would Brando Do?" still get lots of Michigan airplay, and his national reputation has gotten a big boost from his 1995 CD, *Angels Aweigh.* In concert you can expect to hear familiar favorites, along with songs from a forthcoming CD, tentatively titled *A Little Pain Never Hurt,* that Siegel recorded last summer in Nashville. It is due out this spring. Opening act is East Coast singer-songwriter **Deborah Holland.** *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $12.50 in advance at Borders on Liberty, Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, and all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

"Dance and Related Arts Concert": U-M Dance Department. See 9 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Merrily We Roll Along": Washtenaw Community College Musical Theater. See 9 Thursday. 8 p.m.

★**"Balm in Gilead": U-M Musical Theater Program.** See 10 Friday. 2 & 8 p.m.

"Angels in America": Ann Arbor Civic Theater. See 2 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Not Waving": Performance Network Professional Season. See 2 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"The Tempest": U-M Theater Department. See 9 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Our Town": P. T. D. Productions. See 9 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Bill Thomas: Mainstreet Comedy Showcase. See 9 Thursday. 5:45, 8:15, & 10:45 p.m.

FILMS

Cinema Guild. "The Great Dictator" (Charlie Chaplin, 1940). Chaplin portrays both tyrant "Adenoid Hynkel" and a Jewish ghetto barber in this barbed slapstick comedy. $4. 647–8434. U-M Natural Science auditorium, 830 North University, 7 p.m.

"It's a Wonderful Life" (Frank Capra, 1946). Sen-

timental holiday classic about a man given a chance to see how much his life matters to others. (Also shown at the Michigan Theater December 18 & 19). $4. 647–8434. Nat. Sci., 9:15 p.m. **Michigan Theater Foundation. "Laurie Aubrac"** (Claude Berri, 1997). *December 11–13.* Adventure-romance thriller about two Resistance fighters in occupied France during WWII. French, subtitles. $7 (children, students, & seniors, $5.50; MTF members, $4.75). 668–8480. Michigan Theater, 7 p.m. **"Last Night"** (Don McKellar, 1998). *December 11–14.* Somber, funny, at times touching portrait of a handful of quirky Canadians deciding how to spend their final hours before the last night on earth. $7 (children, students, & seniors, $5.50; MTF members, $4.75). 668–8480. Michigan Theater, 9:30 p.m.

12 SUNDAY

★**"Ye Olde Christmas Tree Plantation": Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission.** WCPARC naturalist Matt Heumann discusses the origins of, myths about, and species used for what some might regard as the odd custom of cutting a live tree for indoor decoration. Followed by a carpool to a nearby abandoned Christmas tree farm. *10 a.m., Park Lyndon North, North Territorial Rd. (15 miles west of US-23). Free. 971–6337.*

Monthly Gathering: Second Sunday Schmoozers. All Jewish singles invited to meet new friends over brunch. *11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m., Sweet Lorraine's restaurant, 303 Detroit St. Free (pay for your own food). 973–8699.*

Kids' Open Mike: Oz's Music. Kids of all ages and all musical abilities are invited to play, sing, or just observe. *1 p.m., Oz's Music Environment, 1920 Packard. Minimum donation: 25¢. Call ahead to reserve a space. 662–8283.*

"Aesop's Fables": Theaterworks USA (Michigan Theater Foundation "Not Just for Kids Series"). This renowned New York City–based children's theater troupe presents puppeteer Jim West in a family-oriented adaptation of "The Lion and the Mouse," "The Tortoise and the Hare," "The Fox and the Grapes," and many more of Aesop's wryly moralistic fables. West uses large hand puppets and sets made of large pop-up books, and the tales are accompanied by recorded classical music, including music by Scarlatti, Beethoven, and Chopin. *1:30 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets $10 (MTF members, $8.50) in advance at SKR Pop & Rock and the Michigan Union Ticket Office, and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

★**"Christmas Portraits with Bicycling Santa": Two Wheel Tango.** Kids of all ages invited to pose for free photos with Santa on a tandem bicycle. Cider and candy canes for kids. Toddler play area available. *2–5 p.m., Two Wheel Tango, 3162 Packard at Platt. Free. 528–3030.*

★**"Everything You Ever Wanted to Know about Mystery Writers": Ann Arbor District Library.** Talk by Dearborn mystery buff **Willetta Heising,** author of the recently published reference book *Detecting Women 3.* Copies of the book are for sale. *2–4 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4282.*

★**"Cozy Christmas Stories": Magic Carpet Books & Wonders.** Parents and kids invited to enjoy spicy cider and listen to readings of recently published Christmas stories. *2 p.m., Magic Carpet, Lamp Post Plaza, 2345 E. Stadium. Free. Preregistration required. 973–8757.*

★**Monthly Meeting: Friends of Four-Hand Piano.** Pianists of all abilities invited to bring their music for a casual afternoon of performing duets. An opportunity to meet other pianists and find partners for 4-hand and 2-piano music. Listeners welcome. *2 p.m., location TBA. Free. 663–3942, 769–2105.*

★**Shape Note Singing: The Ark/Ann Arbor Sacred Harp.** All invited to join an afternoon of shape note, or sacred harp, singing, a form of communal hymn singing that has its roots in colonial America. Songbooks available, but singers are encouraged to bring their own. *2–5 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Free. 747–9644, 761–1451.*

"Not Waving": Performance Network Professional Season. See 2 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"Angels in America": Ann Arbor Civic Theater. See 2 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"The Tempest": U-M Theater Department. See 9 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"Merrily We Roll Along": Washtenaw Community College Musical Theater. See 9 Thursday. 2 p.m.

★**"The Interurban": Pittsfield Township Historical Society Monthly Meeting.** Slide-illustrated talk by local railfan Mark Hildebrandt. *3 p.m., Pittsfield Administration Bldg., 6201 W. Michigan Ave. Free. 971–2384.*

★**"Art 2000": Claire Spitler Fine Art.** Reception for this exhibit of works by numerous artists from the Midwest, around the nation, and overseas (see Galleries listing). *3–6 p.m., Susannah Keith Gallery, 8099 Main St., Dexter. Free. 662–8914.*

Japanese Tea Ceremony: U-M Museum of Art. Tea ceremony practitioners enact a traditional Japanese tea ceremony (25 minutes) in the museum's teahouse, followed by a discussion on the ritual's symbolism. This month: **"Downy Flakes: An Unseasonable Flower over the Flowerless Field,"** in the Ura style. Preceded by *shakuhachi* (Japanese flute) music performed by Michael Gould (2 p.m.). Space fills up quickly at this monthly event; arrive early for a seat. *3 p.m., UMMA, 525 S. State at South University. $3 suggested donation. 764–0395.*

★**3rd Annual Holiday Sing: The Friends of the Michigan League.** All invited to gather around U-M music professor Marilyn Mason at the League's restored parlor organ to sing holiday songs. Refreshments. *3:30–5 p.m., Michigan League. Free. 647–7463.*

★**"Holiday Concert": Dexter Community Band.** Bill Gourley conducts this volunteer ensemble in a program of seasonal music, including "An Irving Berlin Christmas," Morton Gould's "Home for Christmas," Jeff Simmons's arrangement of "Up on a Housetop," E. Sauter & W. Finegan's "Midnight Sleigh Ride," Frank Erickson's "American Christmas Festival," and more. Also, a Christmas singalong and visit by Santa & friends. *4 p.m., Dexter High School gym, 2615 Baker Rd., Dexter. Free. 769–3538.*

★**"Holiday Concert": Our Own Thing Chorale.** This local chorus, directed by U-M music school professor emeritus Willis Patterson, presents a concert of holiday spirituals by African American composers. *4 p.m., Bethel AME Church, 900 John A. Woods Dr. Donations accepted. 677–4407.*

★**"Advent & Christmas Festival": American Chorale of Sacred Music.** Carol Muehlig and Donald Williams conduct this local chorus and the First Presbyterian Bell Choir in a concert of seasonal music. The program includes readings, a section of Britten's *Ceremony of Carols,* and works by Castelnuovo-Tedesco, Purvis, and Willcocks. Also, carol settings for choir, bells, harp, and organ. *4 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw. Free, but donations accepted. 662–4466.*

★**Chamber Music Concert: U-M Residential College.** Maria Kardas Barna directs RC students in a program of chamber duets, trios, quartets, and ensemble works. *4 p.m., Residential College auditorium, East Quad, 701 East University. Free. 763–0176.*

★**40th Annual Festival of Lessons and Carols: EMU Music Department/Campus Ministries.** Measure for Measure, a local men's chorus, joins the EMU University Choir, Chamber Choir, and Women's Glee Club to present the Christmas story through a program of alternating text and song adapted from the famous Christmas Eve service at King's College, Cambridge (England). Leonard Riccinto and Ernest Brandon conduct. *4 p.m., Pease Auditorium, EMU campus, W. Cross at College Place, Ypsilanti. Free. 487–2255.*

★**"Booked for Murder": Westgate Nicola's Books.** All invited to discuss ***Last Act in Palmyra,*** Lindsey Davis's murder mystery set in ancient Rome. *5–6 p.m., Nicola's, Westgate Shopping Center. Free. 769–3362.*

★**Exhibit Opening: U-M School of Art and Design/Atys.** Grand opening of this new U-M downtown gallery within Atys, and an opening reception for an exhibit of works by 2 U-M faculty: jewelry by Nicole DesChamps and paintings by Vincent Castagnacci (see Galleries listing). *5–8 p.m., U-M School of Art and Design Gallery, (in Atys), 306 Main Street. Free. 936–2082.*

Holiday Concert: Ann Arbor Cantata Singers. William Boggs directs this highly regarded local chorus in a program of seasonal music, including Vivaldi's stirring *Magnificat,* Daniel Pinkham's *Christmas Cantata* (with brass ensemble, choir, and organ), Gabrieli's "Hodie," assorted carols, and two tenderly beautiful works, Tavener's "The Lamb" and Gorecki's "Totus Tuus (All Yours)." *7 p.m., Bethlehem United Church of Christ, 423 S. 4th Ave. $10 (seniors & students, discount TBA). 973–7693.*

★**"Jazz Holiday Showcase": Ann Arbor School for the Performing Arts.** Jazz by combos from this area music school, including a Latin music ensemble, the Korzon Sisters vocal group, and more. *7 p.m., Bird of Paradise , 207 S. Ashley. Free, donations accepted. 995–4625.*

Ricky Skaggs: The Ark. *See review, p. 93.* Though still a relatively youthful 45, Skaggs is widely recognized as a crucial figure in keeping alive a popular awareness of and appetite for traditional country music. A member of Ralph Stanley's bluegrass band at

countdown

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age 15, Skaggs also served apprenticeships with the Country Gentlemen, J. D. Crow, and Emmylou Harris before setting out on his own in 1981 with *Waiting for the Sun to Shine,* an LP that produced 2 number-1 country hits. A virtuoso on guitar, mandolin, fiddle, and banjo, Skaggs possesses a classic high, hairy tenor that lends even songs on contemporary themes a traditional resonance and depth of feeling. He has recently returned to his bluegrass roots, releasing *Bluegrass Rules,* winner of the International Bluegrass Association's 1998 Album of the Year, and the recent *Ancient Tones,* which is highlighted by a version of the traditional "Little Bessie" that follows a hair-raising a cappella introduction with instrumentation that includes bodhran and harp. *7 & 9 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $25 in advance at Borders on Liberty, Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, and all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

★**"Balm in Gilead": U-M Musical Theater Program.** See 10 Friday. 7 p.m.

★**University Philharmonia Orchestra: U-M School of Music.** Rossen Milanov conducts this music-student ensemble in a program that includes Respighi's *Fountains of Rome* and Stravinsky's *Le Chant du Rossignol. 8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 764–0594.*

Christmas Concert: The Donald Bryant Singers. Donald Bryant, the retired University Choral Union conductor and First Presbyterian Church music director, conducts this 25-voice local chorus program of Christmas music. Soloists are contralto Sally Carpenter and sopranos Margaret Nesse, JoAnne Desmond, and Marjane Baker. Organ accompanist is Susan Goodson. *8 p.m., Northside Community Church, 929 Barton Drive. Donation. 769–4742.*

26th Annual Holiday Ragtime Bash: First Unitarian Church. The popular annual tradition appears for the first time in the church's new home, and features piano ragtime and traditional jazz, with boogie-woogie and blues thrown in for good measure. Tonight's top-notch local performers include pianists **Bob Seeley, Terry Parrish, James Dapogny,** (with vocalist **Susan Chastain), Waleed Howrani, Mike Montgomery,** and **Bolcom and Morris** (pianist Bill Bolcom and soprano Joan Morris). *8 p.m., First Unitarian Church, 4001 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (at Ellsworth). Tickets $12 (students & seniors, $10) at the door only. 665–6158.*

"Our Town": P. T. D. Productions. See 9 Thursday. 8 p.m.

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation. "Laurie Aubrac" (Claude Berri, 1997). See 11 Saturday. Mich., 5 p.m. **"Last Night"** (Don McKellar, 1998). See 11 Saturday. Mich., 7:30 p.m.

13 MONDAY

★**"Second Mondays: A Monthly Gift for Your Spirit": Soundings.** Local therapist Dale Caryn Crayne leads women in meditation and discussion to discover their inner wisdom. *6–8 p.m., Soundings, 4090 Packard Rd. Free, but reservations requested. 973–7723.*

★**Working Writers Group.** *December 13 & 27.* All invited to join a discussion with members of this group, which provides support and critiques for writers interested in publishing their poetry, fiction, or nonfiction. Observers welcome. *7–9 p.m., Borders, 612 E. Liberty. Free. For information, call 913–8516.*

★**"Show and Tell": Ann Arbor Area Civil War Round Table.** About a dozen club members show and briefly discuss Civil War–related objects, including diaries, photographs, weapons, uniforms, paintings, and more. Public invited. *7 p.m., St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center, 5305 Elliott Dr. (off Huron River Dr.), Superior Twp. Free. 930–0617.*

Insight Meditation (Vipassana) Sitting Group: Deep Spring Center. All invited to join a sitting group for meditation focusing on the breath. While the practice stems from the earliest and purest Buddhist teachings, this form of meditation requires no religious beliefs. Bring a cushion to sit on; chairs available. Followed by a dharma talk on **"Bringing Spiritual Practice into Everyday Life"** by Deep Spring Center guiding teacher Barbara Brodsky, and socializing. Participants are asked to arrive by 7:15 p.m. *7:30–10 p.m., Ann Arbor Friends Meetinghouse, 1420 Hill St. Donation. $3 donation to help defray cost of using the building. For information, call Hal at 971–3455.*

★**"Health and Chiropractic": Network Chiropractic Center.** *December 13 & 27.* A series of talks by local chiropractor Rob Koliner. Tonight: **"Chiropractic and Its Influence on Health."** Also this month: **"Creating Optimal Health"** (December 27). *8 p.m., Network Chiropractic, 1210 N. Maple Rd. at Miller. Free, but reservations requested. 761–5908.*

★**University Symphony Orchestra Concert: U-M School of Music.** Kenneth Kiesler conducts this music-student ensemble in Brahms's Symphony no. 2. *8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 764–0594.*

★**"Balm in Gilead": U-M Musical Theater Program.** See 10 Friday. 8 p.m.

★**Writers Series: Guild House.** Readings by three local poets featured in the new anthology *Boomer Girls:* **Josie Kearns, Laura Kasischke,** and **Lonnie Hull Dupont.** *8:30 p.m., Guild House, 802 Monroe at Oakland. Free. 677–6839, 662–5189.*

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation. "Laurie Aubrac" (Claude Berri, 1997). See 11 Saturday. Mich., 7 p.m. **"Last Night"** (Don McKellar, 1998). See 11 Saturday. Mich., 9:30 p.m.

14 TUESDAY

"Searching the World Wide Web": Ann Arbor District Library. A hands-on introduction to web search and metasearch engines and subject directories. Open to all AADL cardholders. *Note:* A free version of this class (preregistration required), with less hands-on opportunity, is offered at the Northeast Branch (December 9, 7 p.m.). *9:30 a.m., AADL training center (3rd floor), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. $5. Preregistration required. 327–4550.*

★**"On Listening to Holocaust Survivors: Recounting and Life History": Ann Arbor District Library "Booked for Lunch."** Local clinical psychologist Henry Greenspan discusses his study based on his interviews and re-interviews of a group of Holocaust survivors over 20 years. Bring a bag lunch; coffee and tea provided. Taped for repeat broadcasts on cable channel 9 or 17. *12:10–1 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4525.*

"Moving Beyond the Basics": Ann Arbor District Library. AADL staffers demonstrate the finer details of using a web browser, including using bookmarks, saving to disk, and evaluating websites. Open to all AADL cardholders. *Note:* A free version of this class (preregistration required), with less hands-on opportunity, is offered at the Loving Branch (December 8, 7 p.m.). *3 p.m., AADL training center (3rd floor), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Preregistration required. 327–4550.*

★**10th Annual Community Family Night Celebration: Community Leaning Post.** All invited to a buffet dinner, a visit with Santa (tentative), and a dance presentation by young dancers taking classes at Arrowwood and the Ann Arbor Community Center. The dancers use American Sign Language to sign the lyrics while dancing to religious and secular music. *5–8:30 p.m., 2nd Baptist Church, 850 Red Oak. Free, but donations accepted. Preregistration required. 769–0288, 662–3128.*

★**"Emergency Preparedness": Whole Foods Market.** Local nutritionist and herbalist Cindy Klement offers tips for emergency preparation for ice storms, power outages, and other disasters. *7–8:30 p.m., The Parkway Center, 2345 S. Huron Parkway. Free. Preregistration required. 971–3366.*

★**"The Non-Bicyclist's Christmas Shopping Seminar": Two Wheel Tango.** All invited to learn about "the latest coolest things to give your bicycle-addicted partner/friend/child that they will actually like and make them think you're hip and in the know." *7 p.m., Two Wheel Tango, 3162 Packard at Platt. Free. 528–3030.*

"Mansfield Park": U-M Film & Video Studies. Sneak preview screening of Canadian director Patricia Rozema's radicalized version of the Jane Austen novel (see 25 Saturday Films listing). Followed by a talk by Rozema explaining the making of the film, which opens a run at the Michigan Theater on December 25. *7 p.m., Michigan Theater. $7 (children, students, & seniors, $5.50; MTF members, $4.75; U-M students, free). 668–TIME.*

★**Groupe de Francais.** All fluent French speakers invited to enjoy conversation. *7:30–9 p.m., Cafe Zola, 112 W. Washington. Free. 996–1848.*

★**Monthly Meeting: Washtenaw Ski Touring Club.** All invited to learn about the ski club's various excursions and social events. Preceded by socializing (7 p.m.) *7:30 p.m., Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 662–SKIS.*

★**Middle East Task Force: Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice.** All invited to help plan the establishment of a sister city with Iraq. *7:30 p.m.,*

Memorial Christian Church, 730 Tappan St. at Hill. Free. 663–1870.

★**Spanish Readers Group: Barnes & Noble.** Henry Ford Community College English instructor Pedro SanAntonio leads a discussion (in English and Spanish) of ***La Tregua (The Truce),*** Uruguayan poet Mario Benedetti's fictional diary of a middle-aged widower temporarily rescued from existential despair by an unlikely romance. *7:30 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3245 Washtenaw. Free. 677–6475.*

★**"Space Night": Michigan Mars Society.** Talks about the past and future of outer space by experts. Former Skylab astronaut **Jack Lousma** discusses space exploration, U-M nuclear engineering professor emeritus **Terry Kammash** talks about advanced propulsion technologies, and a speaker TBA discusses the scheduled December 3 Mars polar landing and plans to send humans to Mars in a decade or so. *8–10 p.m., U-M FXB Boeing Auditorium, 1320 Beal (at Hayward). Free. 665–8744.*

Gabrieli Consort and Players: University Musical Society. *See review, p. 103.* Paul McCreesh conducts this acclaimed Renaissance and Baroque ensemble from Britain. The group is especially known for its exciting historical reconstructions of 16th- and 17th-century sacred and secular ceremonial music, including masses, vespers, and coronation and requiem music for Renaissance monarchs. "Under McCreesh's leadership, early music has rarely sounded so thrilling, urgent, or human," says a *San Francisco Examiner* reviewer. Tonight the Consort performs the 1620 *Lutheran Christmas Mass* by Michael Praetorius, the influential German composer whose music became the basic repertoire for Lutheran churches in northern Germany. As was done in the original 17th-century performances, this performance includes local amateurs (supplied by the UMS Choral Union). *8 p.m., St. Francis of Assisi Church, 2250 E. Stadium. Tickets $25 in advance at Burton Tower and (if available) at the door. To charge by phone, call 764–2538 or (800) 221–1229.*

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation. "Get Bruce!" (Andrew Kuehn, 1999). *December 14 & 15.* Tribute, filled with celebrity interviews, to unsung Hollywood comedy writer Bruce Vilanch. $7 (children, students, & seniors, $5.50; MTF members, $4.75). 668–8480. Michigan Theater, 9:30 p.m. **U-M Film & Video Studies. "Mansfield Park"** (Patricia Rozema, 1999). *December 14 & 25–31.* See Events listing, above. $7 (children, students, & seniors, $5.50; MTF members, $4.75; U-M students, free). 668–TIME. Michigan Theater, 7 p.m.

15 WEDNESDAY

★**"December Movies": Ann Arbor District Library.** *December 15, 22, & 29 (different programs).* A series of 60-minute film programs for preschoolers. Today: 4 animated shorts adapted from children's stories, Marjorie Flack's ***Angus and the Ducks*** (a clever, curious Scottish terrier finds out what's making the noise on the other side of the hedge), Marjorie Flack's ***The Story about Ping*** (a boy returns a lonely, abandoned duck to his family), Katherine Paterson's ***The Tale of the Mandarin Ducks*** (a compassionate couple rescues a pair of ducks from a selfish lord), and ***The Ugly Duckling.*** Recommended for preschoolers. *10–11 a.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. Space limited; first come, first seated. 327–8301.*

★**Holiday Party: Northeast Senior Center.** All seniors invited to a holiday sing-along, followed by lunch and a dance show featuring the Northeast Seniors Tap Dance Class. *11 a.m.–3 p.m., Dixboro United Methodist Church, 5221 Church Rd. (off N. Dixboro Rd. just north of Plymouth Rd.). Free. Reservations requested. 996–0070.*

★**Ann Arbor Senior Computer Club: University Assisted Living Community.** All seniors 60 and older with an interest in any aspect of computers are invited. Today's topics: establishing the club's mission, **using E-mail,** and **sending holiday E-cards.** *2–4 p.m., Frontier Multimedia, 3518 W. Liberty. Free. Preregistration required. 669–3030.*

★**Monthly Meeting: Huron Land Use Alliance.** All invited to discuss ways to promote preservation of open space and the development of livable communities in Washtenaw County. *7–9 p.m., NEW Center, 1100 N. Main. Free. 769–5123.*

★**Monthly Meeting: Trout Unlimited.** All invited to an informal holiday party to meet club members, enjoy food and drink, and trade only slightly exaggerated fishing stories. *7 p.m., Community High School, 401 N. Division. Free. 665–3321.*

★**"Women's Self-Defense": Whole Foods Market.** Ann Arbor Quest Center martial arts instructors teach self-protection tips and techniques. Wear comfortable workout shoes and clothes. *7–8:30 p.m.,*

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"Light a Memory": Hospice of Washtenaw. All invited to remember and honor a departed loved one by joining hospice staff and others in relating personal stories and reading poems. Hand-held lights are distributed for a group lighting. Proceeds benefit the hospice's programs. *7 p.m., St. Joseph Mercy Education Center auditorium, 5305 E. Huron River Dr. Donation. 327–3413.*

★**"Navigating the Health Care System: Getting the Most from Your Insurance Plan": People's Food Co-op.** Talk by local registered nurse Karlta Zarley. *7–8:30 p.m., Courthouse Square Apartments ballroom, 100 S. Fourth Ave. at Huron. Free. Preregistration required. 769–0095.*

★**Open Mike Poetry Night: Barnes & Noble.** All poets invited to bring samples of their work for the group to critique. Hosted by local poet Lawrence Thomas. *7:30 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3245 Washtenaw. Free. 677–6475.*

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation. "Get Bruce!" (Andrew Kuehn, 1999). See 14 Tuesday. Mich., 7 p.m. **"Black Cat, White Cat"** (Emir Kusturica, 1999). *December 15 & 16.* Fresh, vibrant comedy that's a madcap romp through life in a Yugoslavian Gypsy community, complete with tangled love stories, infectious music, and an unforgettable outhouse incident. Serbo-Croatian, subtitles. $7 (children, students, & seniors, $5.50; MTF members, $4.75). 668–8480. Michigan Theater, 8:45 p.m.

16 THURSDAY

★**"Shop and SERRV": International Neighbors.** All area women invited to learn about Sales Exchange Refugee Rehabilitation Volunteers (SERRV), an ecumenical nonprofit marketing organization designed to provide a major alternative sales outlet for artisans in economically developing areas of the world. Also, some of SERRV's stock of handcrafted items by Third World artisans is available for purchase. *9:30–11 a.m., Zion Lutheran Church Piper Hall, 1501 W. Liberty. Free. 429–3617, 995–3819.*

Open House: U-M Detroit Observatory. All invited to take a self-guided tour (brochures available) of the photographs and artifacts in this newly restored museum, listed in the National Register of Historic Places and one of the few sites in the nation with 1850s telescopes in their original mounts, including an 1857 16' refracting telescope and an 1854 "meridian circle" telescope. Not recommended for children under age 10. *1–4 p.m., U-M Detroit Observatory meeting room, 1398 East Ann St. at Observatory St. $5 suggested donation. 763–2230.*

Monthly Meeting: New Enterprise Forum. Talks on entrepreneurial issues by guest speakers, showcase presentations by emerging companies, and an open forum in which entrepreneurs can introduce themselves and solicit help for their business needs. This month's speaker TBA. All invited. *5 p.m. (registration), 5:30 p.m. (meeting), Michigan Manufacturers Technology Center, 2901 Hubbard at Huron Pkwy. $15 (members, free). 214–0104.*

★**African American Book Group: Barnes & Noble.** All invited to discuss Carter Woodson's pioneering 1937 study, ***The Mis-Education of the Negro.*** *6:30 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3245 Washtenaw. Free. 677–6475.*

"2nd Annual Reveling for the Riverside": P. T. D. Productions. An elegant evening that kicks off with a champagne reception, appetizer buffet, and seasonal music by members of the Ypsilanti Symphony Orchestra, followed by a production of the Thornton Wilder play *Our Town* (see 9 Thursday listing). *6:30–10 p.m., Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron St., Ypsilanti. $50 in advance only by December 8. 480–ARTS.*

"E-Mail Basics": Ann Arbor District Library. A hands-on introduction that covers everything from establishing an E-mail account to reading and sending mail and attaching files. Open to all AADL cardholders. *7 p.m., AADL training center (3rd floor), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. $5. Preregistration required. 327–4550.*

★**Monthly Meeting: Ann Arbor Society for Origami.** All invited (children and adults) to learn about and try their hand at origami, the ancient, elegant Japanese art of paper folding. *7–9:30 p.m., Church of the Good Shepherd, 2145 Independence (off Packard). Free. 434–5152.*

★**Public Outreach Meeting: Southeast Michigan Naturists.** All interested in social nudity invited to meet with SMN members in a non-nude setting, to ask questions about the group and its activities. *7–8 p.m., Gypsy Cafe, 214 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 482–9686.*

★**"Alternatives for the Restoration of Mallett's Creek": Washtenaw County Drain Commission.** Talk by drain commissioner Janis Bobrin. *7–9 p.m., Tappan Middle School, 2251 E. Stadium. Free. 994–2525.*

★**"Fun, Festive, Feel-Good Foods and Alcohol-Free Drinks": St. Joseph Hospital "Community Conference Series"/Whole Foods Market.** Local social worker Judy Stone discusses and prepares healthy holiday treats. *7–9 p.m., St. Joe's Education Center auditorium, 5305 Elliott Dr. (off Huron River Dr.), Superior Twp. Free. 485–3303.*

★**Annual Caroling Party and Luminaria Display: Glacier Hills Retirement Center.** Some 1,000 luminaria (traditional Mexican Christmas lights) create a Christmas glow at this community sing-along. Refreshments. All welcome. *7–8 p.m., Glacier Hills, 1200 Earhart Rd. Free. 663–5202.*

★**Choir Concert: Father Gabriel Richard High School.** Glenn Bugala leads the school's student choir in a program of seasonal music. *7 p.m., St. Thomas Catholic Church, 517 Elizabeth at Kingsley. Free, but donations accepted. 662–0496.*

★**"Blues Jam": Oz's Music.** All blues musicians invited. Hosted by Mike Williams. Mikes & amps provided. *7:30–9:30 p.m., Oz's Music Environment, 1920 Packard. Free. 662–8283.*

"Meet Me in St. Louis": Young People's Theater. *December 16–19.* Michelle Mountain directs a cast of 40 young actors in this warmhearted holiday musical about the Smith family eagerly awaiting the opening of the 1904 World's Fair, packed with innovations for the new century. When Mr. Smith receives a promotion requiring a move to New York City, the family confronts having to leave their beloved home. Songs include "The Boy Next Door," "The Trolley Song," and "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas." *7:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Civic Theater, 2275 Platt. Tickets $8 (students, $6) in advance and at the door. 971–7207.*

Grey Eye Glances: The Ark. Evocative, atmospheric folk-rock by this Philadelphia trio led by the arrestingly pure vocals of Jennifer Nobel. A grassroots favorite with club audiences up and down the East Coast, the band recently released *Painted Pictures,* its major label debut on Mercury. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $11 in advance at Borders on Liberty, Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, and all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

"Not Waving": Performance Network Professional Season. See 2 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Our Town": P. T. D. Productions. See 9 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Kirkland Teeple: Mainstreet Comedy Showcase. *December 16–18. See review, p. 111.* Mainstreet owner Teeple is also one of the most talented and satisfying performing artists in town. He is a somewhat manic observational humorist with a fondness for exaggerating emotions until they assume alarmingly surreal proportions. He's a very gifted storyteller, with impeccable timing, an imaginative sense of dynamics, and a knack for finding fresh, surprising perspectives on familiar themes. Much of his material these days draws on his experiences as a befuddled husband and father. Preceded by two opening acts. Alcohol is served. *8:30 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. Tickets $10 reserved seating in advance, $12 general admission at the door. Group rates and other discounts available. 996–9080.*

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation. "Black Cat, White Cat" (Emir Kusturica, 1999). See 15 Wednesday. Mich., 7:30 p.m.

17 FRIDAY

Team USA: USA Hockey National Team Development Program. See 1 Wednesday. Today: **Team USA Under-18 vs. Cedar Rapids** of the U.S. Hockey League. 7 p.m.

★**"The Sounds of Christmas": St. Francis of Assisi Church.** St. Francis music director Janelle O'Malley leads over 150 members of the church's music ensembles, including a handbell ensemble, adult and child choirs, a children's string ensemble, and a contemporary music ensemble. The program includes traditional hymns, French carols, "Gesu Bambino," the "Unto us a child is born" chorus from Handel's *Messiah,* and more. *7 p.m., St. Francis of Assisi Church, 2251 E. Stadium. Free. 769–2550.*

★**"Countdown": Gallery 212.** Opening reception for an exhibit of multimedia works by regional artists addressing visions of the Millennium and per-

sonal deadlines (see Galleries listing). *7–11 p.m., Gallery 212, 212 S. Main. Free. 665–8224.*

★**Monthly Meeting: Viva Ventures.** All physically active seniors (age 50 and over) invited to help plan and organize hiking, biking, canoeing, camping, skiing, or white-water rafting excursions. *7:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. For information, call Bud Tracy at 663–3077.*

"A Bohemian Christmas": First Presbyterian Church. *December 17 & 18.* First Presbyterian music director Susan Wilburn directs the church's Chancel Choir, Hosanna Choir, orchestra, soloists, and dancers in a program showcasing the Christmas culture and customs of Central Europe. *7:30 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw. $5. 662–4466.*

"Meet Me in St. Louis": Young People's Theater. See 16 Thursday. 7:30 p.m.

Holiday Hockey Tournament: Southeast Conference. *December 18–20.* Tonight: Dexter vs. Pinckney (7:45 p.m.) and Chelsea vs. Saline (9:30 p.m.). The championship and consolation games are tomorrow. *7:45 p.m. (December 18) & 7 p.m. (December 19), Veterans Ice Arena, 2150 Jackson Rd. $4.25 (youths 17 & under and seniors 60 & older, $3.50). 761–7240.*

"The Nutcracker Ballet": Ann Arbor Ballet Theater. *December 17–19.* Carol Radovic directs this local dance company in its annual performance of Tchaikovsky's beloved Christmas ballet. Based on a story by E. T. A. Hoffmann, it tells the story of a little girl whose magical nutcracker doll transports her to a wondrous fairyland on Christmas Eve. About 100 dancers from children to adults appear in the production. Principal dancers include **Megan Edwards, Brent Caburnay, Sara Arnold,** and **Michael Phillip.** *8 p.m., Power Center. Tickets $18 (seniors & students $15; children 12 and under, $12) in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

"The Repo Elf and Other Holiday Tales": RAH Productions. *One night only.* Robin Heller directs this local company's original show, a nontraditional cabaret of Christmas carol parodies and twisted holiday tales. The cast includes Christine Lombardo, Tracy Spada, Beth Watson, Nick Barnes, and John Prakapas. Additional writers include Anthony Caselli, Patrick Moug, and others. *8 p.m., Gypsy Cafe, 214 N. Fourth Ave. Tickets (price TBA) at the door only. 433–1389.*

"Our Town": P. T. D. Productions. See 9 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Not Waving": Performance Network Professional Season. See 2 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Kirkland Teeple: Mainstreet Comedy Showcase. See 16 Thursday. 8:30 & 10:45 p.m.

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation. "Ride with the Devil" (Ang Lee, 1999). *December 17–23.* Compelling portrait of the "Bushwhackers," a little-known band of Civil War guerrillas from Missouri who harassed and killed Northerners both before and after the war. Stars folk-rock singer Jewel. $7 (children, students, & seniors, $5.50; MTF members, $4.75). 668–8480. Michigan Theater, 7 & 9:45 p.m.
"Breakfast of Champions" (Alan Rudolph, 1999). Meandering, satiric portrait of middle-class America as a demented junkyard wonderland, based on the Vonnegut novel. Bruce Willis, Nick Nolte. $7 (children, students, & seniors, $5.50; MTF members, $4.75). 668–TIME. Michigan Theater screening room, time TBA.

18 SATURDAY

53rd Annual Christmas Bird Count: Washtenaw Audubon Society. The National Audubon Society has conducted a Christmas bird count every year since 1900. (The first Washtenaw count was held in 1947.) Each count area is a 15-mile-diameter circle, divided into eight regions that must be counted in a single day. Everyone recognizes that this makeshift census may be off by thousands, but much useful information is gained by comparing the results from year to year. The count is also great fun, and everyone from novices to experienced bird-watchers is invited to participate. You can volunteer for all or part of the day, either as a field observer or (if you have a bird feeder) as a feeder watcher. In addition to the daylight census of local birds, some count regions also conduct predawn searches for owls. For information and instruction on the Washtenaw area count, call the organizers as soon as possible. There is a small ($5) fee to defray costs of publishing the results in *American Bird.* The results are tallied at a potluck dinner at a WAS member's home this evening. *6 a.m. For instructions and further information, call Mike Kielb at 995–4357 or Nancy French at 994–8418. To sign up as a feeder watcher, call Kurt Hagemeister at 663–9746 or 665–7427.*

"Winter Star Talk"/"Season of Light": U-M Exhibit Museum Planetarium. *December 18, 19, & 27–30. Winter Star Talk* (11:30 a.m. December 18 only and 1:30 & 3:30 p.m. all 5 days) is an audiovisual exploration of the stars and planets currently visible in the sky, narrated by U-M law professor emeritus (and veteran local actor) Bev Pooley. *Season of Light* (10:30 a.m. & 12:30 p.m. December 18 only and 2:30 p.m. all 5 days) is an audiovisual show about various ancient and modern solstice celebrations, including Christmas and Hanukkah. *10:30 & 11:30 a.m. and 12:30, 1:30, 2:30, & 3:30 p.m., U-M Exhibit Museum, North University at Geddes Ave. $3 (seniors & children 12 & under, $2). 764–0478.*

★**"Awareness Through Movement: The Feldenkrais Method": Movement Learning Systems.** Local Feldenkrais practitioner Jesse Nichols introduces this technique for accessing the sensory motor system in order to create more efficient movement patterns. Wear loose, comfortable clothing. *Noon–3 p.m., Senior Health Bldg., 5361 McAuley Dr. Free. Preregistration required. 971–5285.*

★**"Invisible Intrigue": Aunt Agatha's.** Local mystery writer **Jerry Prescott** signs copies of his new novel for young adults, a thriller about a mysterious substance discovered in the U-M Arboretum that makes things invisible. *1:30 p.m., Aunt Agatha's, 213 S. Fourth Ave. Free. 769–1114.*

★**Mitch Albom: Liberty Borders.** Book signing (no reading or discussion) by this popular, award-winning *Detroit Free Press* sports columnist and author of ***Tuesdays with Morrie,*** his best-selling chronicle of his long friendship with his teacher and mentor Morrie Schwartz. *1:30 p.m., Borders, 612 E. Liberty. Free. 668–7652.*

★**Yule Ritual: Druids of Shining Lakes Grove.** All invited to celebrate the rebirth of the sun god Bel, a holiday associated with the winter solstice. Also, potluck, raffle, and child care. *2–5 p.m., Friends Meetinghouse, 1420 Hill St. Free. 487–4931.*

"A Boychoir Christmas": Boychoir of Ann Arbor. Boychoir founder Tom Strode directs this local ensemble of 50 boys in its 13th annual Christmas concert. The program opens with the processional "Once in royal David's city" and concludes with John Gardner's "Tomorrow shall be my dancing day," and it features John Rutter's *Dancing Day.* This piece is accompanied by a small chamber ensemble that features 14-year-old harp virtuoso Allegra Lilly. Boychoir administrator Meg Kennedy narrates. Also, William Mathias's "Sir Christemas," Alfred Burt's "Come, dear children," Ralph Vaughan Williams's virtuoso choral arrangement of "The Wassail Carol," and other traditional carols. The boy singers are supplemented by men singers, who provide the lower choral parts, and the choir is accompanied by St. John's Episcopal Church (Detroit) organist and choirmaster Charles Kennedy on St. Andrew's 33-rank Reuter pipe organ, as well as flutist Ashley Hopkins. The Boychoir's 20-member Preparatory Choir performs Gustav Holst's setting of "In the bleak mid-winter." The program concludes with a sing-along of traditional carols. This popular annual concert usually draws a full house, so come early for a good seat. *3 & 7:30 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. Tickets $15 (students & seniors, $10; youths 17 & under, $5; families, $35) in advance and at the door. 663–5377.*

★**"Adjustment": U-M School of Art and Design.** Opening reception for this exhibit of ceramics and prints by U-M student Carolyn Kentis (see Galleries listing). *6–8 p.m., U-M Media Union Gallery, 2281 Bonisteel Blvd., North Campus. Free. 936–2082.*

"Birthing Our Child of Promise": Mateyo Empie. Local medicine woman Empie leads a ceremony in which participants examine the past in order to face the coming New Year with clarified self-knowledge. Also, a fire ceremony, potluck, and more. *6:45 p.m., location TBA. $24 in advance by Dec. 4, $29 at the door. Preregistration required. 663–5505.*

Team USA: USA Hockey National Team Development Program. See 1 Wednesday. Today: **Team USA Under-18 vs. Cedar Rapids** of the U.S. Hockey League. 7 p.m.

"A Bohemian Christmas": First Presbyterian Church. See 17 Friday. 7:30 p.m.

"Meet Me in St. Louis": Young People's Theater. See 16 Thursday. 2 & 7:30 p.m.

★**"Christmas Festival": Great Lakes Branch of the Anthroposophical Society of America.** The program includes a performance of Ann Arborite Katherine Katz's short Nativity drama, "A Christmas Imagination," instrumental music, and group singing. Children must be accompanied by an adult; not suitable for children under 6. *8 p.m., Rudolf Steiner House, 1923 Geddes Ave. Free, but donations accepted. 913–2012.*

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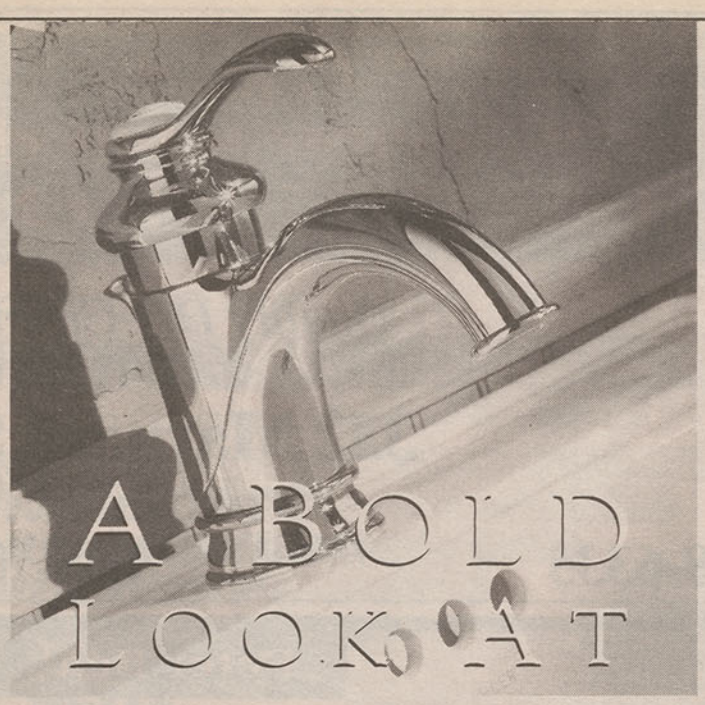

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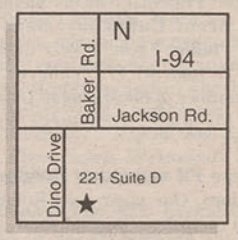

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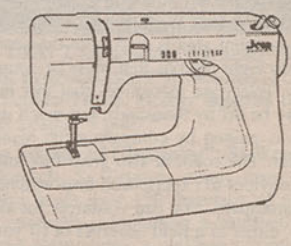

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comedy

Kirkland Teeple
Funnier

I last saw Kirkland Teeple perform ten years ago. He was funny then; he's funnier now. The longtime owner and operator of Mainstreet Comedy Showcase has built himself a nice career peppered with television specials and even an upcoming stint on Rosie O'Donnell. It's hard to know whether the act I saw last month is indicative of his current repertoire. One senses that at Mainstreet he's on home turf: relaxed, happy, and content to just try out stuff and interact with the audience. In fact, we were cautioned to tell him promptly if he started repeating himself—a nice touch. He gets the audience involved with the process of crafting a funny night.

Teeple's not one of those scripted comics, praise be (we got *warmed up* with those guys). He's more of a storyteller who goes off on tangents and then on to tangents of tangents before somehow wending his way back to his original point. There's an endearing looseness to his act, as if you're just sitting around the kitchen table at two in the morning drinking beer with your wacky brother-in-law. He holds nothing back in the service of comedy. His wife, a "couples therapist" (intoned in drippingly sibilant sarcasm), is the subject of much Teeple bemusement. His marriage, of course, is just the springboard to greater observations on the differing emotional needs of men and women, and Teeple has a blast playing both roles. "Why won't you TALK TO ME? What are you THINKING???" sobs woman-Teeple into the microphone. "Uh, not much," admits man-Teeple.

He tackles parenthood (he has two young sons), PMS (he grew up with five sisters), working out at the gym (and his response to sweating, be-thonged nymphets on the adductor machines), rude Hudson's employees (and good ways to deal with them), genitalia (sorry, no details), then back for more wife-dissection. It's all illustrated via a face that contorts into Grinchlike smirks, sad-clown misery, and, in another second, your wiseass brother-in-law again.

But if you catch one of his Mainstreet shows, December 16–18, he may do none of the above. A lot of his act is just off-the-cuff chatter—otherwise known as improv, otherwise known as just being naturally funny in public.

—Kate Conner-Ruben

Third Saturday Contra Dance: Cobblestone Farm Dancers. Robin Warner and Peter Baker call to live music by the Pittsfield Open Band. All dances taught; first-timers welcome. No partner needed. Wear cool, casual clothes and bring flat, smooth-soled shoes for dancing. Also, an open jam for string musicians of all levels (4–6 p.m.). *8 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (1/2 mile south of I-94). $7. 665–8863, 426–0241.*

Joel Mabus: The Ark. This MSU grad is regarded by his peers as one of the hottest pickers on the folk circuit. A virtuoso on guitar, banjo, mandolin, and fiddle, Mabus is also an excellent songwriter, known for his trenchant humor and eclectic "folkabilly" style. "Mabus is everything a modern string player should be—versatile, innovative, tasty, and funny," says Martin Keller of the *Twin Cities Reader*. His 1997 CD *Western Passage* is an all-instrumental suite for solo guitar that blends 19th-century American folk melodies with original tunes. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $12.50 in advance at Borders on Liberty, Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, and all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

"The Nutcracker Ballet": Ann Arbor Ballet Theater. See 17 Friday. 2 & 8 p.m.

"Not Waving": Performance Network Professional Season. See 2 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Our Town": P. T. D. Productions. See 9 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Kirkland Teeple: Mainstreet Comedy Showcase. See 16 Thursday. 5:45, 8:15, & 10:45 p.m.

Ann Arbor Ballroom Dance Club. Ballroom dancing to recorded music. Partner recommended. Refreshments. *9–11:30 p.m. (dancing), First Unitarian Universalist Church, 4001 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd at Ellsworth. $7. 426–2746, 665–6090.*

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation. "Ride with The Devil" (Ang Lee, 1999). See 17 Friday. Mich., 9 p.m. **"It's a Wonderful Life"** (Frank Capra, 1946). *December 18 & 19.* 'Tis the season once again for this Christmas classic that is also shown by Cinema Guild on December 11. $7 (children, students, & seniors, $5.50; MTF members, $4.75). 668–8480. Michigan Theater, 6:30 p.m.

19 SUNDAY

★**"Light Transmission."** Meditative program aimed at uplifting self and humanity led by spiritual channeler, healer, and counselor Sandra Shears. *10–11:30 a.m., location TBA. Free for newcomers. 663–6440.*

"Santa on Ice": Ann Arbor Parks Department. All invited to join Santa in skating to recorded music programmed by a DJ. Free candy canes. *1–3 p.m., Veterans Ice Arena, 2150 Jackson Rd. $4.25 (youths age 17 & under and seniors age 60 & over, $3.50). Skate rentals available ($1.75). 761–7240.*

★**Student Recitals: Ann Arbor School for the Performing Arts.** Recitals by soloists and ensembles from this area music school. *1, 2, 3, & 4 p.m., Concordia College Kreft Center, 4090 Geddes Rd. at Earhart. Free. 995–4625.*

35th Annual Community "Messiah" Sing. All interested people capable of reading and performing the vocal parts are invited to join this friendly, informal, unrehearsed performance of Handel's famous oratorio. Between 150 and 200 singers usually participate, including professionals, semiprofessionals, serious amateurs, families, and church choirs. A volunteer orchestra of 35 to 45 instrumentalists is also needed; prospective players should call the number below as soon as possible to ensure section balance. Directed by First Methodist Church chancel choir director Bob Pratt, who was for many years the choral director at Pioneer High. Scores are provided, or participants may bring their own. (The "Prout" edition, published by Schirmer, is used.) Orchestra players bring their own stands. Cider provided; bring goodies to share. *1 p.m. (orchestra reports), 1:15 p.m. (singers report), 1:30 p.m. (performance), St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 2309 Packard. Small donation requested to help defray expenses. For more information, call Mary Steffek Blaske at 665–5964.*

★**"Feed the Poets": Del Rio.** Open mike poetry readings interspersed with informal readings by poets TBA. *1:30–4:30 p.m., Del Rio, 122 W. Washington. Free. 761–2530.*

★**Monthly Meeting: Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays.** All invited for socializing and small-group discussions. *2–5 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division at Catherine. Free. 741–0659.*

Third Sunday Family Dance Series: Cobblestone Country Dancers. Square and contra dancing to live music by the string band Sandy River Belle, with popular local callers David Park Williams, John Freeman, and Robin Warner. Geared toward families and children. All dances taught; beginners welcome. No partner necessary. *2–4:30 p.m., Cobblestone Farm Barn, 2781 Packard (next to Buhr Park). $6 (families, $10). 975–9059, 994–2928.*

Tree of Remembrance: Arbor Hospice. All invited to a nondenominational ceremony dedicating three trees hung with handmade ornaments honoring or memorializing loved ones. Ornament sales support Arbor Hospice's patient and family care programs. The trees are on display at the hospice, at the Arborland Borders (3527 Washtenaw), and at the Ann Arbor Women's City Club (1830 Washtenaw). *2 p.m., Arbor Hospice residence, 2366 Oak Valley Dr. Sliding scale donation for ornaments. To preorder, call 662–5999.*

★**"Holiday Carillon Recital": U-M School of Music.** Faculty carillonist Margo Halsted plays festive seasonal music on Burton Tower's 55 bells, the largest of which weighs 12 tons (twice as much as a large elephant). *2 p.m., Burton Tower. Free. 764–0594.*

★**Fall Term Studio Showings: Dance Gallery Studio.** Dance performances choreographed by Dance Gallery Studio choreographers, by dance students both young (2 p.m.) and adult (8 p.m.). Each showing also includes performances by **Peter Sparling Dance Company** members. *2 & 8 p.m., Dance Gallery Studio, 111 Third St. Free. 747–8885.*

"The Nutcracker Ballet": Ann Arbor Ballet Theater. See 17 Friday. 2 p.m.

"Not Waving": Performance Network Professional Season. See 2 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"Meet Me in St. Louis": Young People's Theater. See 16 Thursday. 2 p.m.

★**Stilyagi Air Corps Book Club: Westgate Nicola's Books.** All invited to discuss Cliff Simak's ***Ring Around the Sun,*** about the crisis created when new, everlasting products dominate the world's economy and shut down all business. *5 p.m., Nicola's Books, Westgate Shopping Center. Free. (313) 390–2369.*

★**"Did You Know?": First Baptist Church (Ypsilanti).** *December 19–21.* A **"living Nativity"** pageant with music, live animals, and dramatizations of the Christmas story by characters in costume. *6:30, 7, 7:30, & 8 p.m., First Baptist Church, 1110 W. Cross St., Ypsilanti. Free. 482–7380.*

"Winter Solstice Family Stories and Hike": Ann Arbor Parks Department. Storytelling by ShuNah Sii around a campfire, followed by a candlelit hike to meet the legendary characters behind the stories. *7–9 p.m., Leslie Science Center, 1831 Traver Rd. $5 (families, $20) for city residents, $6 (families, $24) for nonresidents. Preregistration required. 662–7802.*

"House Blend" Series: Ann Arbor Playwrights. After a brief intermission in the theater wilderness, the House Blend series of readings by local and visiting playwrights returns for a new season divided between the Civic Theater and Livonia's Trinity House Theater (464–6302). Tonight: Mike Grogan's ***Hostage Heart,*** about a tabloid reporter stung by his own wickedly venomous story. *7 p.m., Ann Arbor Civic Theater, 2275 Platt Rd. at Huron Pkwy. (south of Washtenaw). $3 suggested donation. 971–AACT.*

★**40th Annual Festival of Lessons and Carols: St. Andrew's Episcopal Church.** All invited to join this local Christmas tradition. Congregation members read nine lessons that tell the story of God's dealings with mankind, from the fall of Adam and Eve through Old Testament prophecy and the birth of Christ. Each lesson has an associated hymn or carol, some sung by the choir and some by the congregation. St. Andrew's adult and junior choirs are under the direction of Tom Strode. Music includes Philip Ledger's "Adam lay ybounden," Frank Sargent's new setting of "Jesus Christ the Apple Tree", John Tavener's setting of Blake's "The Lamb," David Willcocks's arrangement of "Gabriel's Message," Walford Davies's arrangement of "The holly and the ivy," and Herbert Howells's "A spotless rose." The St. Dunstan's English Handbell Choir accompanies the adult choir in Michael Emery's "Alleluia: A new work is come on hand" and rings out "The Coventry Carol." The Junior Choir sings Paul Trepte's "People, look east," The program concludes with congregational singing of "O little town of Bethlehem." *7:30 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. Free, but an offering is taken to benefit the St. Andrew's breakfast program and the Shelter Association of Ann Arbor. 663–0518.*

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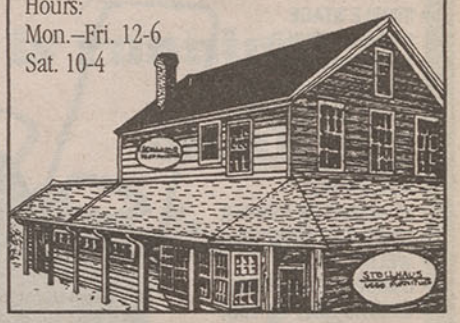

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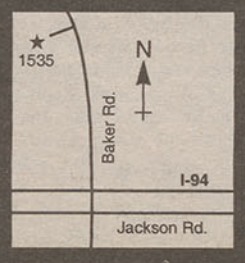

EVENTS *continued*

Over the Rhine: Prism Productions. Energetic heartland rock 'n' roll, at once artful and urgent, by this Cincinnati quartet that opened for the Cowboy Junkies at the Michigan Theater last month. Led by the husband-and-wife songwriter duo of vocalist Karin Bergquist and bassist Linford Detweiler, the band is known for its enchantingly spare arrangements and its reflective, self-consciously literary lyrics. Tonight's show features material from the band's 1998 CD *The Darkest Night of the Year,* a melancholy Christmas album featuring both traditional carols and unconventional original takes on the season. *8 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets $12 in advance at SKR Pop & Rock, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, and all other Ticketmaster outlets; $15 at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation. "Ride with the Devil" (Ang Lee, 1999). See 17 Friday. Mich., 7:30 p.m. **"It's a Wonderful Life"** (Frank Capra, 1946). See 18 Saturday. Mich., 5 p.m.

20 MONDAY

★**Monthly Meeting: Embroiderers' Guild of America.** Stitchers of all abilities and interests are invited to work on their own stitching projects, socialize, and learn about guild activities. *6:45 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw. Free to visitors ($30 annual dues). 426–3903.*

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation. "Ride with the Devil" (Ang Lee, 1999). See 17 Friday. Mich., 7:30 p.m.

21 TUESDAY

★**"Make a Treasure-Keeper Box": Magic Carpet Books & Wonders.** Kids 6–12 invited to make and decorate a special box to give as a gift or to keep as a treasure box. *2–4 p.m., Magic Carpet, Lamp Post Plaza, 2345 E. Stadium. $5. Preregistration required. 973–8757.*

★**Monthly Meeting: Sierra Club.** All invited for a holiday potluck and show-and-tell slide show. Members bring a dish to pass, utensils, and 10 slides from a recent trip or event. *7:30 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 662–5475.*

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation. "Ride with the Devil" (Ang Lee, 1999). See 17 Friday. Mich., 7:30 p.m.

22 WEDNESDAY

★**"December Movies": Ann Arbor District Library.** See 15 Wednesday. Today: 2 animated shorts adapted from children's stories, William Steig's ***Abel's Island*** (a castaway mouse struggles to survive on a desert island) and Isaac B. Singer's ***Zlateh the Goat*** (a poor furrier must sell the family goat for supplies). 10–11 a.m.

Bishop Carl Mengeling: Father Gabriel Richard High School. Talk by the bishop of the diocese of Lansing. Followed by a short concert by the school's choir and lunch. All invited. *11:15 a.m., Father Gabriel Richard High School gymnasium, 530 Elizabeth. $5. Preregistration required by December 13; ask for Lisa. 662–0496.*

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation. "Ride with the Devil" (Ang Lee, 1999). See 17 Friday. Mich., 7:30 p.m.

23 THURSDAY

U-M Men's Basketball vs. Duquesne. *7:30 p.m., Crisler Arena. $12 & $15. 764–0247.*

★**"Genre-less Open Mike": Oz's Music.** All electric and acoustic musicians invited. Hosted by Aaron Wolf. Mikes & amps provided. *7:30–9:30 p.m., Oz's Music Environment, 1920 Packard. Free. 662–8283.*

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation. "Ride with the Devil" (Ang Lee, 1999). See 17 Friday. Mich., 7:30 p.m.

24 FRIDAY (Christmas Eve)

"Marathon Skate": Ann Arbor Parks Department. *December 24 & 31.* Skating to music by a DJ, for adults (11 a.m.–1 p.m.) & youths (1–5 p.m.). *11 a.m.–5 p.m., Veterans Ice Arena, 2150 Jackson Rd. $4.25 (youths age 17 & over and seniors age 60 & over, $3.50). Skate rentals available ($1.75). 761–7240.*

★**"Lessons and Carols": First Presbyterian Church.** The traditional program of scripture readings interspersed with sacred carols, anthems, and hymns performed by the church's Chancel Choir and Liberty Brass Quintet. Includes music by Handel, Cornelius, Pinkham, Praetorius, and Persichetti. *5 & 7:30 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw. Free. 662–4466.*

★**Family Candlelight Service: Northside Community Church.** Live music accompanies this retelling of the Christmas story, as children place figures into a Nativity scene. Includes scripture readings, carol singing, and a congregational singing of "Silent Night" by candlelight. *6 p.m., Northside Community Church, 929 Barton. Free. 662–6351.*

★**29th Annual Festival of Lessons and Carols: First Baptist Church.** A candlelight service of readings and carols sung by the church choir and congregation, based on the famous Christmas Eve service at King's College, Cambridge (England). David Freyling directs; organist is Edward Maki-Schramm. Child care available. *7:30 p.m., First Baptist Church, 512 E. Huron. Free. 663–9376.*

FILMS

No films.

25 SATURDAY (Christmas)

★**"Many Hands Partnership Christmas Meal": Ann Arbor YMCA.** All invited to enjoy a volunteer-served holiday meal with all the trimmings. *1 p.m. (tentative), YMCA, 350 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 663–0536.*

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation. "Mansfield Park" (Patricia Rozema, 1999). *December 14 & 25–31.* Radicalized version of the Jane Austen novel about an adopted "poor relation" who is treated condescendingly by her rich uncle's family. $7 (children, students, & seniors, $5.50; MTF members, $4.75). 668–8480. Michigan Theater, 5, 7:15, & 9:30 p.m.

26 SUNDAY

★**Kwanzaa Celebration: African American Cultural and Historical Museum.** Display and sale of food, clothing, arts and crafts, jewelry, and books. Children's activities, workshops, and a Kwanzaa candle-lighting ceremony. Also, a film TBA about African American culture (time TBA, $5). *4 p.m. (tentative), Washtenaw Community College Morris J. Lawrence Bldg., 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Free. 434–5507.*

George Bedard & the Kingpins, Cub Koda, Billy Kirchen, & Sarah Brown: The Ark. Billed as a "Swing, Country, Rockabilly, Blues, & Rock 'n' Roll Blowout," this popular annual post-Christmas show, now in its 4th year, features an all-star collaboration of several Ann Arbor–bred roots-rock musicians. A trio led by guitar genius Bedard and featuring bassist Randy Tessier and drummer Rich Dishman, the Kingpins have been Ann Arbor's—and one of the country's—best honky-tonk dance bands for nearly a decade. They have released two critically acclaimed CDs on the defunct Schoolkids' label. Dubbed "America's greatest houserocker" by best-selling horror novelist Stephen King, Cub Koda is the former leader of Brownsville Station, the Ann Arbor-based early 70s rock group best known for its hit single "Smokin' in the Boys Room." His most recent CD, *Abba Dabba Dabba: A Bananza of Hits,* was also released on the Schoolkids' label. An Ann Arbor native who first gained fame as the guitarist in Commander Cody's Lost Planet Airmen, Kirchen plays a rowdy mix of rockabilly, honky-tonk, blues, swing, and truck-driving songs. Brown is an Ann Arbor native who in the late 70s moved to Austin, Texas, where she plays in several blues bands and regularly wins the *Austin Chronicle* award as the city's best bassist. *7:30 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $15 in advance at Borders on Liberty, Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, and all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation. "Mansfield Park" (Patricia Rozema, 1999). See 25 Saturday. Mich., 5, 7:15, & 9:30 p.m.

27 MONDAY

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation. "Mansfield Park"

(Patricia Rozema, 1999). See 25 Saturday. Mich., 5, 7:15, & 9:30 p.m.

28 TUESDAY

U-M Men's Basketball vs. Towson. *7:30 p.m., Crisler Arena. $12 & $15. 764–0247.*

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation. "Mansfield Park" (Patricia Rozema, 1999). See 25 Saturday. Mich., 5, 7:15, & 9:30 p.m.

29 WEDNESDAY

★**"December Movies": Ann Arbor District Library.** See 15 Wednesday. Today: 2 animated shorts adapted from children's stories, Maurice Sendak's ***Really Rosie*** (a girl convinced of her limitless talent sweeps the neighborhood kids into her pretend movie) and Tomie De Paola's ***The Legend of the Bluebonnet: An Old Tale of Texas*** (a retelling of a Comanche legend). 10–11 a.m.

"Crossroads Ceili": The Ark. An evening of Celtic music, song, and dance. The line-up includes a variety of Irish-American bands from throughout southeastern Michigan, including **Grupa Ceiol,** an ensemble of Detroit-Ann Arbor high school students that won the Midwest Fleadh and finished 2nd in the All-Irish Fleadh. (A fleadh is an Irish festival.) Also, traditional dancer **Nick Gareiss** and dancers from *Riverdance. 8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $11 in advance at Borders on Liberty, Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, and all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

Chris Zito: Mainstreet Comedy Showcase. *December 29 & 30.* The morning show host on the Planet (WJR's FM sister station), Zito is an emerging Mainstreet favorite known for fresh, clever topical humor. Preceded by two opening acts. Alcohol is served. *8:30 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. Tickets $10 reserved seating in advance, $12 general admission at the door. Group rates and other discounts available. 996–9080.*

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation. "Mansfield Park" (Patricia Rozema, 1999). See 25 Saturday. Mich., 5, 7:15, & 9:30 p.m.

30 THURSDAY

U-M Women's Basketball vs. MSU. *7 p.m., Crisler Arena. $5 (youths under 14 & seniors, $3; U-M students with ID, free). 764–0247.*

Mainstreet Comedy Showcase. See 29 Wednesday. 8:30 p.m.

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation. "Mansfield Park" (Patricia Rozema, 1999). See 25 Saturday. Mich., 5, 7:15, & 9:30 p.m.

31 FRIDAY (New Year's Eve)

8th Annual "New Year Jubilee": Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau. More than 2500 people last year attended this popular alcohol-free New Year's Eve celebration that features more than two dozen area favorites performing around Depot Town in downtown Ypsilanti.

At Riverside Arts Center: country guitar by **Michael Brown** (6:30–8:30 p.m.), comedian **O. J. Anderson** (7–8 & 8:30–9:30 p.m.), the Delta blues & jazz duo **Madcat & Kane** (9 p.m.–12:30 a.m.), and comedy and magic by **Boyer & Fitzsimmons** (9:30–10 p.m.).

At the Freight House: calypso and reggae by **Nite Flight** (6:30–8:30 p.m.) and rockabilly, blues, and more by **George Bedard and the Kingpins** (9 p.m.–1 a.m.).

At St. Luke's Church: Renaissance vocal music from **The Arbor Consort** (7–9 p.m.), banjo and dulcimer player **Betsy Beckerman** (6:30–7:30, 8–9, & 9:15–10:15 p.m.), the **Jubilee Chamber Players** (9–10 p.m.), and salsa by the **Benny Cruz Salsa Band** (8 p.m.–12:30 a.m.).

At First Presbyterian Church: The folk and blues guitar-and-banjo duo of **Robert Jones and Matt Watroba** (7–9:30 p.m.), a contra dance with British and American folk music by the **Golden Griffon Stringtet** (8 p.m.–12:30 a.m.), and classical music on flute and guitar by **Divertimente** (9:30–11:15 p.m.).

At First United Methodist Church: storyteller and singer **Laz Slomovits** (6:30–8:30 p.m.), children's musician **David Franzblau** (7–7:45 p.m.), boogie-woogie pianist **Marc "Mr. B" Braun** (8:30 p.m.–12:30 a.m.), and storytellers **Miz Rosie** (7–7:30 & 8–9:45 p.m.) and **Barbara Shutz-Gruber** (7:30–9 & 9:45–10:15 p.m.).

At the Ypsilanti District Library: children's singer-entertainer **Marcey Walsh** (7–7:30, 8:15–8:45, & 9:30–10 p.m.) and ventriloquist **Richard Paul** (7:30–8:15, 8:45–9:30, & 10–10:45 p.m.).

At Emmanuel Lutheran Church: African American storyteller **LaRon Williams** (7–9 p.m.), children's musician and storyteller **Sheila Ritter** (6:45–8:30 p.m.), and big band swing by the **Riverside Big Band** (8:30 p.m.–12:30 a.m.).

At the Second Baptist: the church's **Celestial Choir** (7–8 & 8:45–9:45 p.m.) and solo gospel singing by **Kenneth Lackey** (8–8:45 p.m.).

At the Holy Trinity Chapel: jazz by **Paul Vornhagen** (8:30–11:30 p.m.).

At the Ypsilanti Automotive Heritage Museum: oldies by **Rich Eddy's Rockin' Oldies Band** (7:30–9:30 p.m.).

At the Ypsilanti Township Rec Bldg.: Comedy juggling by **Jonathan Park** (6:30–10 p.m.), kids music and puppetry by **Chris Clark** (6:30–10 p.m.), bluegrass by the **Culture Vultures** (6:30–10 p.m.), Scottish songs by **Michael Bryce** (6:30–10 p.m.), and laser tag, billiards, racquetball, and walley ball (7–10 p.m.).

Other special events include **New Year's Eve services** at 2nd Baptist (10–12:30 a.m.) and St. Luke's (11:30 p.m.–12:30 a.m.), and open exhibits at the Ypsilanti Historical Museum (6:30–10 p.m.). Also, other performers and locations to be announced. Schedule subject to change. *6 p.m.–1 a.m., various Ypsilanti locations. Admission badges $15 in advance before Christmas at Busch's stores and the Ypsilanti and Ann Arbor convention and visitors bureaus, $20 at the door (any venues). Children ages 6–12, $5 (children 5 & under, free) in advance and at the door. For information and a detailed schedule of events, call 483–4444.*

The Stealth Project: The Ark. An ensemble of singer-songwriters organized and led by **Christine Lavin,** the acclaimed singer-songwriter, known for her sharp wit and comically warped perspectives, who has been described as a mix of Bette Midler, Tom Lehrer, Steve Goodman, and Janis Ian. "The Stealth Project" is the name of a forthcoming CD she has assembled of songs by 16 of her favorite contemporary singer-songwriters, and the touring ensemble includes varying subsets of the artists featured on the CD. Tonight's show features former Uncle Bonsai leader **Andrew Ratshin,** New England singer-songwriter **Don White,** Canadian singer-songwriter **Lynn Miles,** and others TBA. *7:30 & 10:30 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $15 (early show) & $25 (late show) in advance at Borders on Liberty, Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, and all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

New Year's Eve Contra Dance. Peter Baker calls to music by Marty Somberg, Debbie Jackson, and Brad Battey in Michigan's only New Year's contra dance. Robin Warner and Peter Baker call to live music by musicians TBA. No partner needed. Wear cool, casual clothes and bring flat, smooth-soled shoes for dancing. *8 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (1/2 mile south of I-94). Tickets $15 in advance and at the door. 665–8863.*

Wayne Cotter: Mainstreet Comedy Showcase. An appealingly personable observational humorist with antic, sometimes stingingly caustic views of everyday life, Cotter is a frequent guest on the Letterman show and on various cable TV shows. One of Mainstreet's most durably popular attractions. Preceded by two opening acts. Alcohol is served. The admission price to the 10:30 p.m. show includes champagne and party favors. *6, 8, & 10:30., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. Tickets $19.95 (6 p.m.), $24.95 (8 p.m.), & $29.95 (10:30 p.m.) 996–9080.*

"Millennium Bash": The Blind Pig. With **Funktelligence,** a very popular local funk-oriented jazz-rock band with a penchant for psychedelia, and other bands TBA. *10 p.m. (doors open at 9 p.m.), The Blind Pig, 208 S. First. Tickets $15 in advance and at the door. 996–8555.*

New Year's Bash: Cavern Club. Dancing to two bands: the **Starlight Drifters,** a local rockabilly and honky-tonk quartet led by indomitable local rocker Chris Casello, who plays electric and steel guitar, and featuring vocalist Billy Alton; and the **Thornetta Davis Band,** a jump blues, R&B, and roots-rock band led by Davis, an acclaimed Etta James-style vocalist from Detroit. *10 p.m.–4 a.m., Cavern Club, 210 S. First. $100 includes buffet & champagne. Reservations recommended. 332–9900.*

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation. "Mansfield Park" (Patricia Rozema, 1999). See 25 Saturday. Mich., 5 & 7:15 p.m.

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1999 HOLIDAY GUIDE

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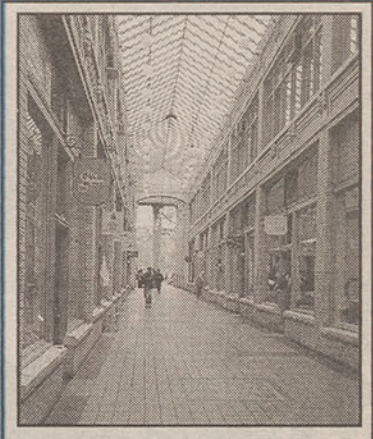

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The community Christmas sing

It united town and gown

Ann Arbor has always been split between those who are affiliated with the U-M and the rest of the city. But starting in 1913, town and gown came together each year for a communitywide Christmas sing at Hill Auditorium.

The sing began the year Hill was completed. From the start, the 5,000-capacity hall was filled—an impressive turnout, considering that the 1910 census counted fewer than 15,000 Ann Arborites (excluding students, most of whom were at home by then).

The 1913 sing, which took place on Christmas Day, was a joint project of the U-M School of Music and the Ann Arbor Civic Association. The program included performances by two boys' choirs and special soloists, and an organ recital by music professor Albert Stanley. On stage were five trees adorned with electric decorations—a novelty then being promoted by the Eastern Michigan Edison Company.

A special guest star was native daughter Helene Allmendinger, who came back to town from Cleveland, where she was pursuing what became a successful international opera career. A contralto, she sang "The Star of the Orient," and "He shall feed his flock" from Handel's *Messiah.*

Group singing was always the highlight of the evening; the audience followed along with words projected on a screen. The first year, the organizers placed trained voices throughout the audience to keep the singing in unison. In later decades, tenor Harold Haugh, a voice professor at the School of Music, directed the singing from the stage. "I merely waved my arms," he recalls. "A committee put the program together."

Interrupted only by the two world wars, the sing continued for over sixty years. "It was open to the public; that was the important thing," recalls Anne Haugh, Harold's wife.

"If you couldn't sing on key, you'd come anyway," recalls lawyer and longtime resident Jim Crippen.

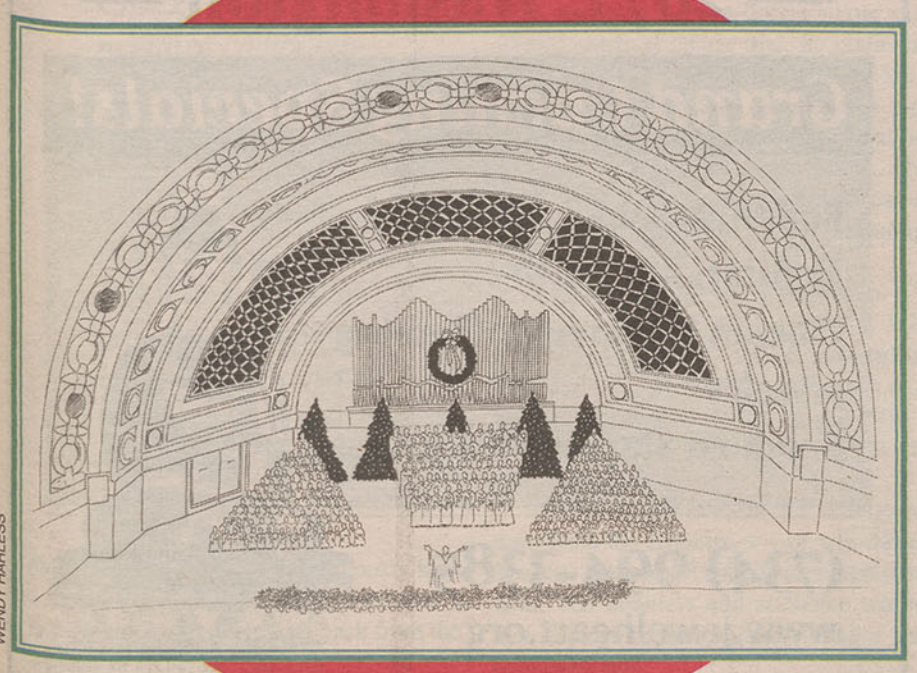
Sometimes the songs were illustrated with tableaux. John Hathaway recalls that when he was a boy in the 1930s, he appeared as an angel for "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing," wearing wings borrowed from St. Andrew's Church.

Leonard Chase, who worked in personnel at King-Seeley (now GT Products), was responsible for keeping the program going after World War II. He kept in contact with all the choirs in the city, both school and church, and arranged for them to appear. When Chase retired in the mid-1960s, Judy Dow Rumelhart and the Exchange Club took over.

Rumelhart decreased the number of choirs, replacing them with dancing by the Civic Ballet and the performance of an operetta. She also enlisted the music school's Willis Patterson as soloist to sing such favorites as "Ave Maria," "The Lord's Prayer," and "We Three Kings." Rumelhart directed the "The Littlest Angel" by having pajama-clad children sit at the edge of the stage and listen while Mary Firestone read it. Then adults acted out the play on stage.

Rumelhart stopped organizing the Hill Auditorium sing in 1974. "The city was smaller [when it started]," she says. "It outgrew itself. And I was exhausted." But it was succeeded by a smaller event that continues to this day. The twenty-fifth annual Christmas sing, a project of the Western Kiwanis Club, is expected to attract 500 people to the Michigan Theater on November 28 for a family-oriented sing-along of favorite Christmas carols.

—Grace Shackman



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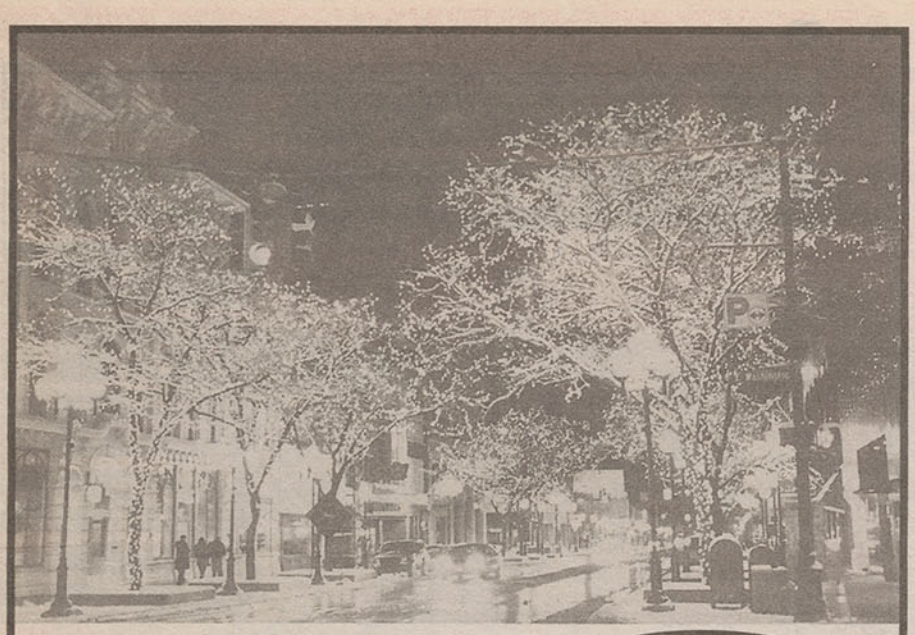

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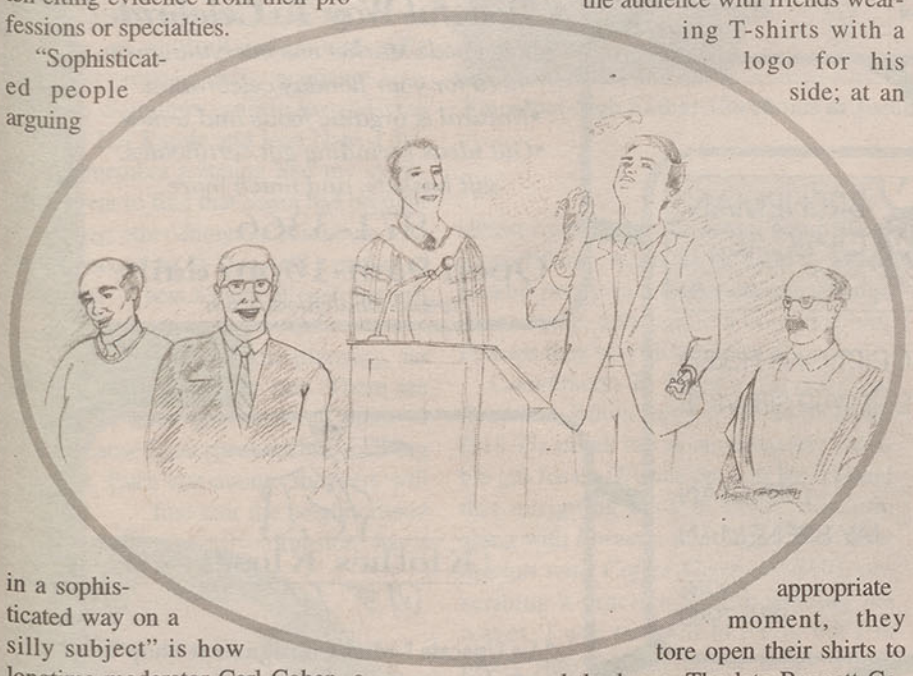
The latke versus the hamantasch

Sophisticated debates on a silly subject

The latke and the hamantasch, two traditional Jewish holiday foods, were also the unlikely subjects of debates held at the U-M Hillel Society in the 1960s and 1970s and then at the Jewish Community Center from 1988 to 1994.

"It was absolutely nothing serious," recalls participant Chuck Newman. Each dish had two defenders who would argue for the superiority of their chosen food, often citing evidence from their professions or specialties.



"Sophisticated people arguing in a sophisticated way on a silly subject" is how longtime moderator Carl Cohen, a U-M philosophy professor, describes the events.

The latke, a potato pancake, is often eaten at Hanukkah, a Jewish festival celebrated in December. Because it's cooked in oil, it's considered a symbol of the one day's supply of oil that miraculously kept a menorah burning for eight days after a Jewish army took Jerusalem back from the Syrians in 165 B.C.

Chuck Newman ran a negative campaign—"I juggled a latke, showing how it fell apart," he recalls. He also demonstrated how oily the latke was by putting one in a balloon and squeezing out the oil. "But I was faking, because it had oil in it already," he admits.

The hamantasch, a three-sided pastry filled with prunes or poppy seeds, is eaten at Purim, which falls in February or March. It is meant to resemble the hat worn by Haman, who advised the Persian king Ahasuerus to destroy the Jews; his plot was thwarted by the queen, Esther, who was a Jew.

The idea of the holiday debate originated at the University of Chicago and quickly spread to other campuses. Herman Jacobs, head of Hillel at the time, introduced it to Ann Arbor in the 1960s.

Cohen recalls that he chose participants for their "willingness to engage in whimsy—flights of fancy—and be downright silly." The debaters lived up to that mission. Computer scientist Bernie Galler remembers that the late James McConnell, psychologist and editor of the *Worm Runners Digest*, talked of the effects of feeding prunes to his rats. McConnell packed the audience with friends wearing T-shirts with a logo for his side; at an appropriate moment, they tore open their shirts to reveal the logos. The late Bennett Cohen, a professor of veterinary medicine, used slides of animals from his research, with altered captions, to show the allegedly dire effects of whichever food he was against.

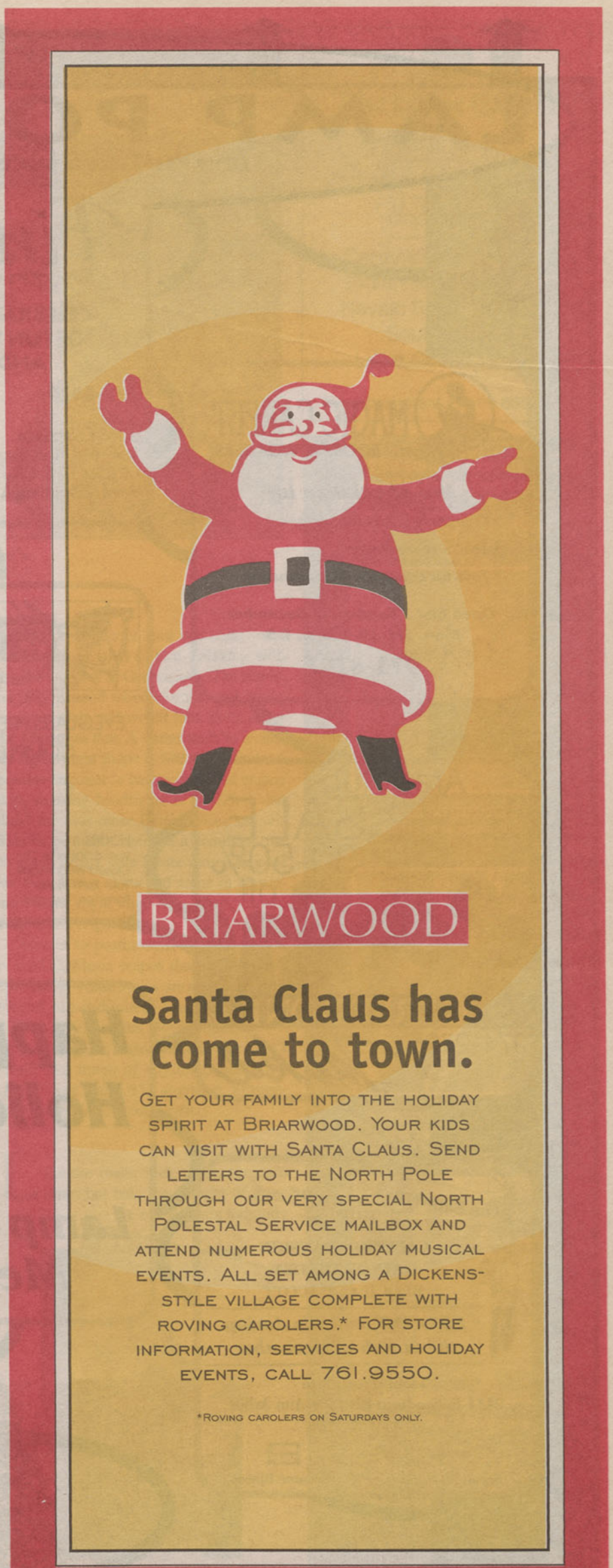
Rabbi Robert Dobrusin used biblical arguments to show that the fruit involved in Adam and Eve's fall was really a potato. Rabbi Robert Levy took off his rabbinical robes to reveal a green doctor's coat and offered medical charts that, he claimed, proved hamantaschen were healthier. Surgeon Lazar Greenfield warned that humans have a "grease gland" that could be activated by eating too many latkes, and Lana Pollack, then a state senator, read a Michigan Senate resolution proclaiming that the latke was best.

Newman ran a negative campaign—"I juggled a latke, showing how it fell apart," he recalls. He also demonstrated how oily the latke was by putting one in a balloon and squeezing out the oil. "But I was faking, because it had oil in it already," he admits.

After a chance for rebuttal and questions from the audience, a vote was taken. The side that received the loudest applause won. The debaters and audience would then adjourn for refreshments—latkes and hamantaschen.

—Grace Shackman

ILLUSTRATION WENDY HARLESS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The Millennium Shopper

Biker Barbie, the Y2K Frango mint, and other gifts of the season

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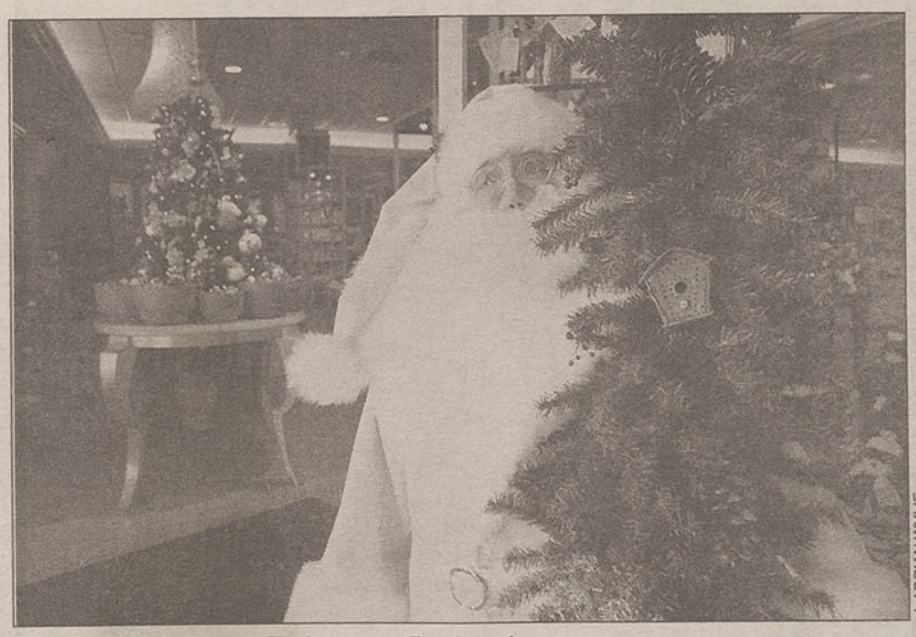


J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Four-foot-high Father Christmas at Jacobson's.

When I was a kid, my uncle was proud that he did all his holiday shopping late Christmas Eve. By then, the only place still open would be the corner drugstore, so we'd all end up with gifts like blood pressure cuffs, manicure sets, Whitman Samplers, and industrial-size bottles of Hai Karate and Jean Naté. I distinctly remember reaching into my stocking one year to find that Santa had brought me, among other things, a miniature vial of shampoo, some Q-Tips, and a packet of dental floss. It beat a lump of coal, but just barely.

Fortunately, with a little planning, no one need suffer the same fate. There are hundreds of great gift ideas out there—I know, because I just spent a week scouring the stores. Even last-minute shoppers will find that the neighborhood drugstore has a lot more to offer than it did thirty years ago. At CVS (née Arbor), for example, I found thirty-five-millimeter cameras, $9.99 videos, jigsaw puzzles, and aromatherapy candles. (They do have blood pressure cuffs, manicure sets, and dental floss, for those who, like my uncle, prefer to give the gift of preventive health care.)

GREGORY FOX

Plush toy moose trophy at Love from Michigan.

Millennium books. Millennium collectibles. Millennium-series power tools. This year, merchandisers are slapping that word on almost every item imaginable, in the apparent hopes that it will add a certain cachet to an otherwise ho-hum gift. The silliest example I came across was Millennium Frango mints at Hudson's, which looked pretty much like regular Frango mints to me, although in a very nice box. Perhaps they're Y2K compliant?

Conversely, *To Light a Sacred Fire: Practical Witchcraft for the Millennium* ($14.95) struck me as an eminently sensible gift for the Wiccan on your list. I found this intriguing book at Crazy Wisdom, along with *Fortunes in a Coffee Cup: Divination with Coffee Grounds* ($10), describing a practice akin to reading tea leaves. I was tempted to try it, but I'm pretty sure that my coffee dregs would simply tell me that I'm getting way too much caffeine.

I liked the millennium candles shaped like life-size champagne bottles, $14 at Jules. They're not only festive, they're handy if that Y2K thing is for real and the electricity goes out at the stroke of midnight. Survivalists anticipating an extended power outage might like a case of champagne candles and a metal vine-covered wine rack ($155) in which to store them.

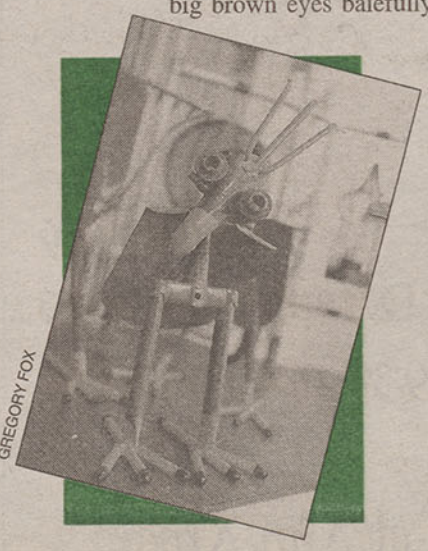
Mercifully, nothing I found at Peaceable Kingdom said "millennium" on it, but I did fall in love with Yard Birds, whimsical two-foot-high bird sculptures made from garden tools—rakes for feet, spades for torsos, garden claws for heads ($100). I also found great stocking stuffers, like a $2.50 fish with "amazing squeeze and squirt action" and that perennial favorite, the rubber chicken ($9.50).

If you know someone who loves Vera Bradley's cheerfully feminine quilted cotton accessories, zip over to Regrets Only, where you can get a washable garment bag for $122 and, for $84, a spiffy-looking diaper bag complete with color-coordinated changing pad, so the recipient can look fashionable even while wiping someone's behind. Equally stylish in a more decorous way: a slim black overcoat whose cuffs, collar, and buttons are trimmed with faux tiger fur. It's $199 at Collected Works.

There's always at least one child—and sometimes an adult or two—playing with the Brio display at Generations. The sturdy, brightly painted wooden trains and tracks are irresistible and would look great under the Christmas tree. A starter track in a classic figure-eight shape is $40 and includes a posable engineer; a battery-powered engine with working headlights is $24.95. I also liked the four-piece Festive Ware tea set, $18.50, probably because it reminded me so much of my own Fiestaware. The cups are nice, heavy china and come in appealing colors: royal blue, lime green, canary yellow, and bright orange.

Atys is so postmodern—a typical item is a $112 Alessi teapot that looks like a spaceship—that I was surprised to find lots of old-fashioned, hand-milled milk soap in lovely scents like jasmine, chocolate, or "regular," which admittedly didn't smell like much of anything, including milk. There's also $12 soy soap, presumably for the lactose intolerant.

Like the rustic look of hunting trophies but hate the thought of those big brown eyes balefully



GREGORY FOX

Yard Bird made from garden tools at Peaceable Kingdom.

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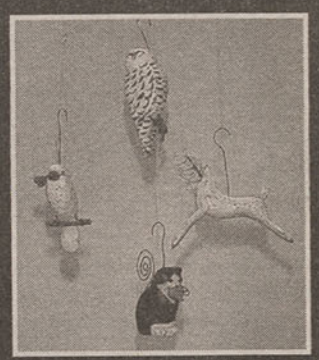

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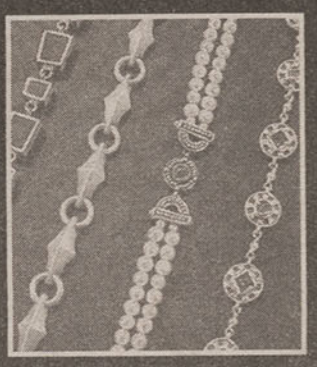

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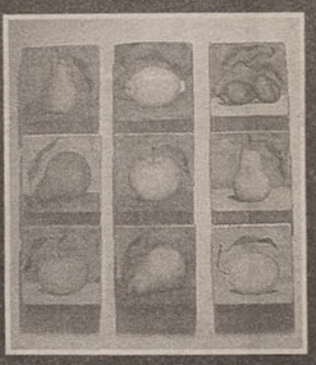

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HOLIDAY SHOPPING

GREGORY FOX

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brew. British Toad Hall offers an imported Nut Brown Ale brew sack from Scotland, $35. It also sells wonderful waxed cotton rainwear from England starting at $199, in traditional chocolate brown with a tartan lining, or custom-made maize and blue for U-M fans.

Give someone a bit of the old country—literally—with blocks of Irish peat, $32 at Celtic Garden Imports. Added to a fire, they give off a low flame and a pleasantly musky aroma that'll make an Ann Arbor living room smell just like a cottage in County Cork. $45 buys a genuine, hand-chiseled cobblestone from the streets of Dublin, inscribed with Gaelic sayings, a Celtic cross, or a family crest. A pair make striking bookends.

We don't hear as much about Beanie Babies as we used to, but they're still very much around. Mudpuddles has a great selection, $5.50 each. The store also has a kiddie cleaning set including broom, mop, sponge, dustpan, and carpet sweeper—at $17, it's considerably cheaper than hiring a cleaning service, and you might even convince Junior to do windows.

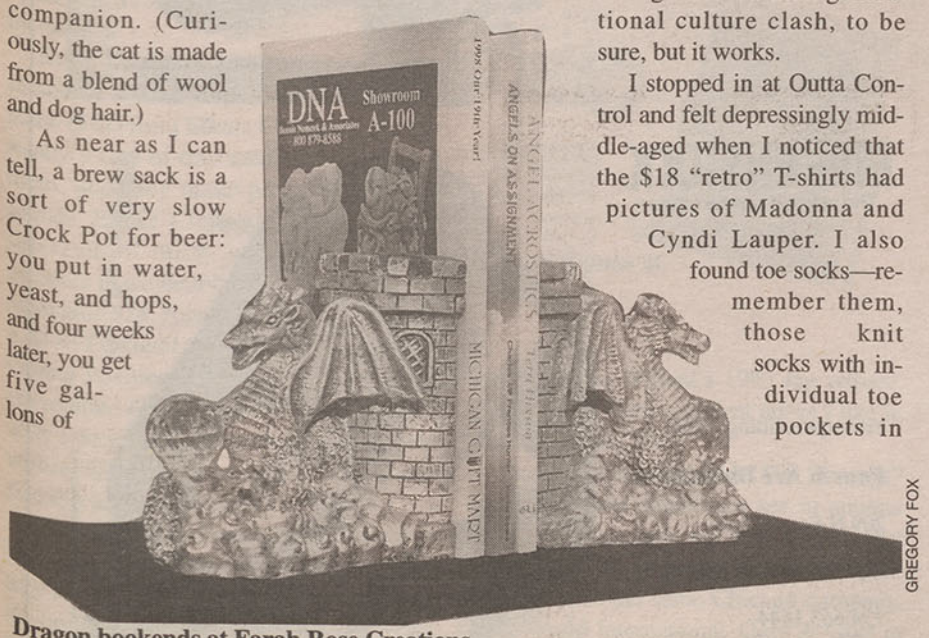
his Princess, a 1970s-era poster that was to the Dungeons and Dragons set what the Farrah Fawcett poster was to the jocks. Here, the Princess is a six-inch-high doll wearing a horned Viking helmet and what appears to be a skimpy metal bikini, $20. The box copy burbles, "Small in stature, yet lushly proportioned!"

I buzzed over to the Kerrytown area, where I came across a life-size soft-sculpture fiddler at the De Boer Gallery, complete with grizzled white hair, real granny glasses, and violin, that would look great seated next to a Franklin stove. He's friendly looking and folksy, and he costs $525. For $98, you can get him a soft-sculpture cat as a companion. (Curiously, the cat is made from a blend of wool and dog hair.)

As near as I can tell, a brew sack is a sort of very slow Crock Pot for beer: you put in water, yeast, and hops, and four weeks later, you get five gallons of

It's getting harder and harder to find quality vintage clothing—many items are on their third or fourth owners by now, and are getting pretty worn out—but Retro Threads, on State Street, still stocks a good selection of 1940s suits starting at $95. It also has some 1970s-reminiscent bell-bottoms made from cut-up 1940s-vintage ties—a multigenerational culture clash, to be sure, but it works.

I stopped in at Outta Control and felt depressingly middle-aged when I noticed that the $18 "retro" T-shirts had pictures of Madonna and Cyndi Lauper. I also found toe socks—remember them, those knit socks with individual toe pockets in



GREGORY FOX

Dragon bookends at Farah Rose Creations.

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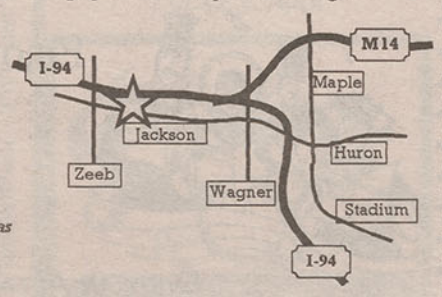

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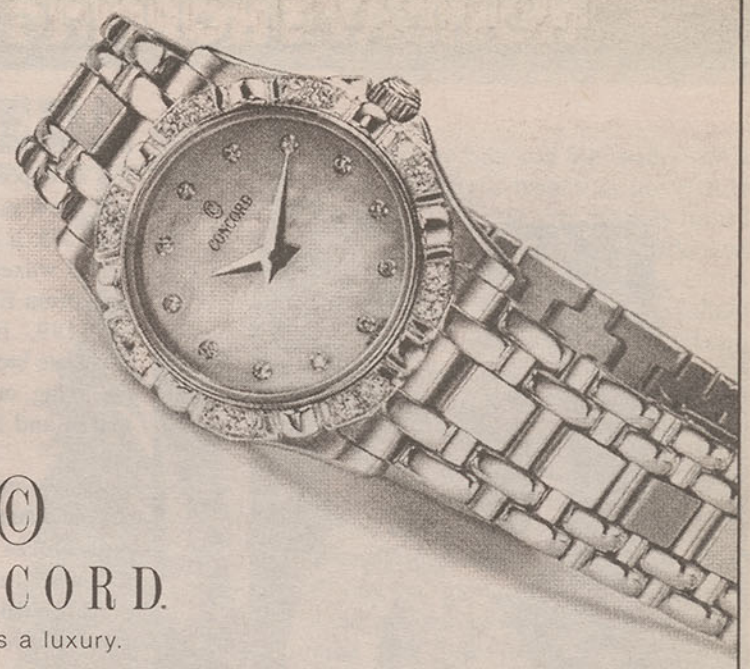

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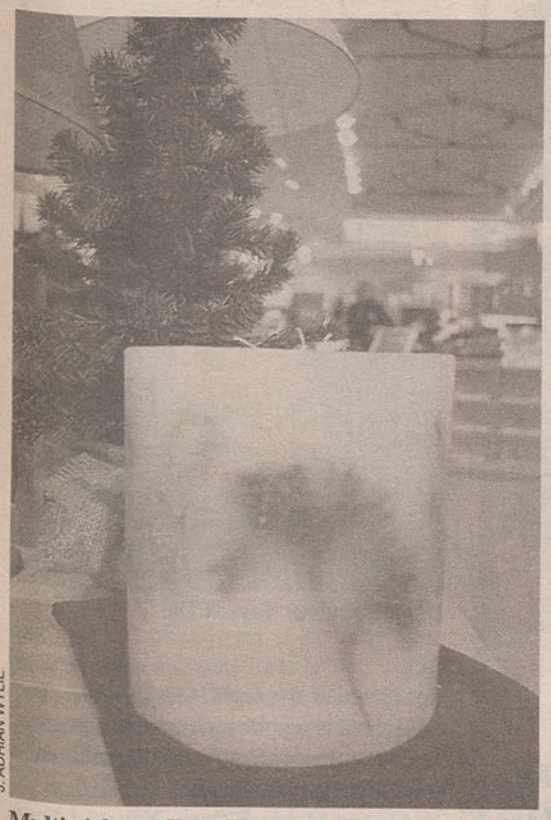


J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Multiwick candle at Eddie Bauer Home.

different wild colors? They're back, at $8.50 a pair.

Cocktail culture will continue into the next millennium, if the trend-setting home accessories department at Urban Outfitters is any indication. In addition to glasses, cocktail shakers, and a clock in the shape of a martini glass, the store sells a kit called *Kitschy Cocktails: Luscious Libations for the Swinger Set*, complete with drink umbrellas, tiny plastic palm trees, flamingo swizzle sticks, and recipes for drinks like a Honolulu Hurricane Martini, which sounds like it packs the wallop of a tsunami.

At See, I found Italian contact lens cases made of walnut, cherry, and oak-stained wood. At $20, they're almost too elegant to actually use. For the height of sophistication, get someone a lorgnette, perfect for peering from one's private box at the opera. It's $139, tickets to *La Bohème* not included.

Even the least musically inclined should be able to play a Tanzanian thumb piano ($12) from Ethnic Creations. It's basically a row of tiny metal strips—thumb them, and they make pleasant plinking sounds. Ethnic Creations also has a fine selection of thick, woolly Ecuadoran sweaters in exuberant colors, starting at an incredible $28. Nearby at Bivouac, I found a $170 Personal Navigator that uses the Global Positioning System, the Reagan-era satellite defense system, to tell you exactly where you are anywhere in the world within fifteen meters. Does anyone else find this as frightening as I do?

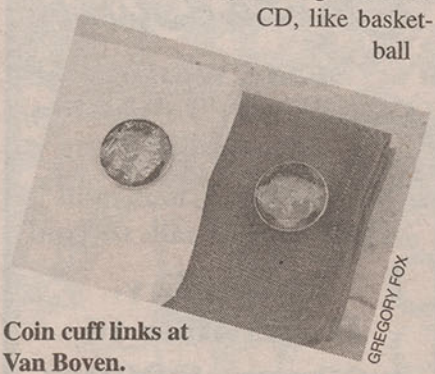
Men don't wear French cuffs as much as they used to, and that's too bad, because they afford even the most conservative man the opportunity to wear interesting jewelry. Start a revival with cuff links made from 1903 Indian head pennies or 1935 buffalo head nickels: $120 a pair at Van Boven, they have colorful painted enamel surfaces and sterling silver hardware.

Thirty years after he attended the U-M, my cousin Jud still fondly remembers the Victorian posters entitled "All Is Vanity" and "Gossip" that have long decorated the Caravan Shop's window. The former shows a woman sitting in front of a vanity in the shape of a skull; the latter, two gossiping women whose leaning figures form the shape of the devil. Now you can get both images on T-shirts for $14.50 each. Jud would love them; maybe you know someone who would, too.

At David's Books, I found plenty of "gently read" best-sellers at half price, like a hardback copy of Thomas Harris's *Hannibal* for $14. I also found a nice, thick biography of Civil War general Nathan Bedford Forrest for $17.50. Since I had only a dim idea of who he was, I picked up a copy of *Don't Know Much about the Civil War* for $12.

At nearby SKR Blues & Jazz, I found *The Complete Johnny Mercer,* a three-CD set for $30, and a tempting compilation called *The Doo Wop Box,* including 101 songs from groups with evocative names like the Five Satins, the Velvets, and the Mellow Kings. The box says it's "the definitive history of vocal groups," but on my way out, I noticed *The Doo Wop Box II.*

My sister likes to get CDs for Christmas, but since she lives in California, I have no idea what she's already got. If there's someone like this on your list, Tower Records gift cards might be a good way to go—they're good at all locations nationwide and on the website. Or you could head across South U to the Record Exchange and get a used CD, like basketball star Shaquille O'Neal's 1993 rap release, *Shaq Diesel.* If the recipient doesn't like it, you're out only 50¢.



GREGORY FOX

Coin cuff links at Van Boven.

Don't be fooled by those $80 "vintage" lava lamps you sometimes see in antique stores. You can buy 'em new for half that price. Yes, the originals are back in production from the same Chicago company, Lava World International. Gags & Gifts in Maple Village sells them for $39.99, and they're almost worth buying for the box

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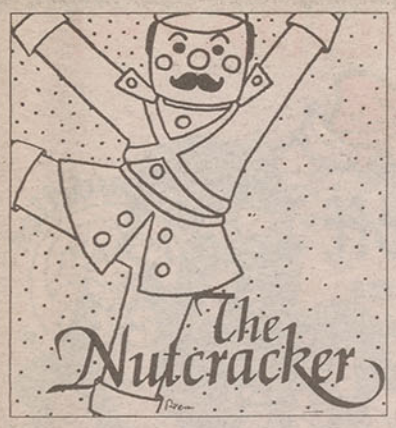

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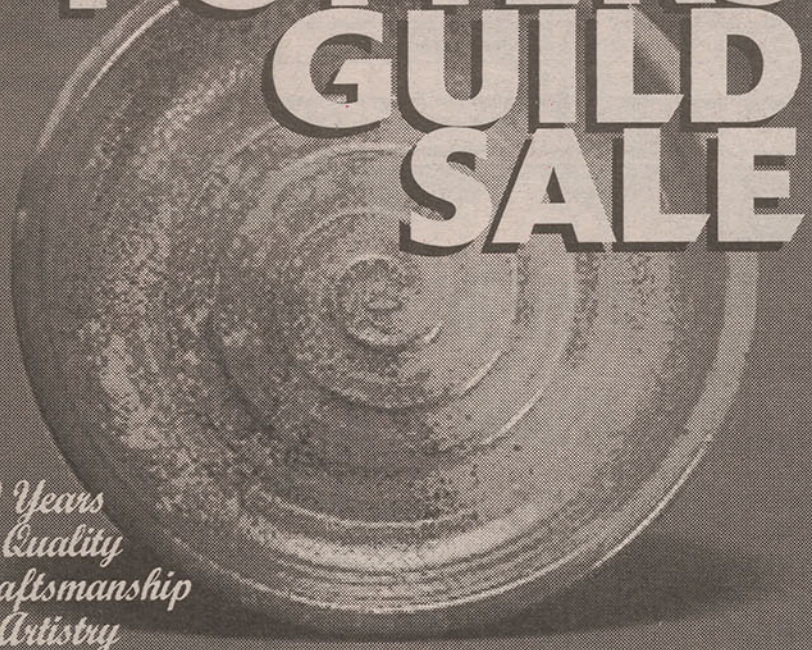
J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Barbie rules at Toys R Us.

alone, which trumpets, "Lava is the moment, lava is a philosophy . . . the primordial ooze that once ruled our world, captured in perpetual motion!"

Also at Maple Village, You and Your Pet is your ferret headquarters, with ferret leashes, ferret feeding bowls, a $14.99 Ferre-Trail Rollabout, and even little ferret *hats* for $6.49. Those with more conventional pets may like a $16.99 Jolly Ball, complete with handle, so they can play catch with Fido and not get covered with slobber.

POTTERS GUILD SALE



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Know somebody who's into Gotz dolls? These nineteen-inch collectibles look convincingly like miniature little girls, with lush hair, silky skin, and sweetly curled little mouths. They're $125 at Mozart's and Bernina; they come in elaborate outfits, or you can get dress patterns and make a full wardrobe. The beauty of a gift like this is that although you might pay a lot to get someone started, you can keep giving $6.75 dress patterns for years to come.

I've never snorkeled, but a $200 snorkel package complete with mask, fins, and tube from Huron Scuba struck me as an inspired gift—especially if you throw in snorkeling classes, only another $30. They also have a cheerful yellow underwater camera for $180, and a $49 diving watch good to a depth of 300 feet—presumably it keeps right on ticking in the shower, too.

Learning Express has sea monkeys! They come with "growth food," "feeding spoon," a water purifier, a thirty-two-page handbook, and a life insurance policy—all for $6.95. There are tons of great crafts and activities here, but my favorite was Smithsonian Adventures' Launch Your Own Five-Foot-Tall Hot-Air Balloon, $19.95—you use a blow dryer to send it aloft.

Haven't you always wanted your very own stone funerary slab engraved with the image of a twelfth-century maiden? I didn't know I did, but once I saw them at Dragon's Lair Futons, I've been hoping

someone will give me one, because it would look great under the trees in my garden. It's $325. Also very cool: round stone oil lamps engraved with Celtic symbols, $99, and tabletop indoor fountains with water burbling over stone, $75.

Give mead—"England's Oldest Drink"—which sells for $9.95 a bottle at the Big Ten Party Store on Packard. According to the label, mead is made from fermented honey, and newlyweds were traditionally supposed to drink a glass every day for a lunar month to assure a happy and fruitful marriage; that's where we get the term *honeymoon.* Too romantic? Then how about a six-pack of Three Stooges beer, $5.79?

Speaking of romance, what girl wouldn't swoon over an opera-length rope of pearls, perfect with those lorgnettes from See? They're $650 at Artinian Jewelers in Lamp Post Plaza. Even better: a one-carat diamond wedding band, a mere $2,840.

My favorite four-year-old loves animals, but he's already got all the little plastic cows, horses, and lions a boy could want. Magic Carpet Books & Wonders has a fantastic collection of unusual animal figures from $2 to $10: walruses, sea horses, eagles, buffalo, koalas, kangaroos, and even a bat with a six-inch wingspan and little curled feet, so you can hang him upside down from a bookshelf.

The new Borders at Arborland has hundreds of great gift ideas, but two stood out: *The New Yorker Out Loud*, audio versions of stories by Mark Twain, Annie Proulx, Jack Kerouac, and more, read by the authors when alive and by others when not, $20; and *Century*, a 1,100-page photographic retrospective so massive, it comes in its own cardboard case with carrying handle, $50. Closer to home, the *Vibrant Ann Arbor* fund-raising calendar has been nicely dressed up with gold lettering for the year 2000; it's $14.95.

Most of the stuff at Circuit City is too expensive or bulky to appear under the Christmas tree—a GE washer-dryer set, anyone?—but I did find a spiffy portable CD player ($30) and a Jabra earset that fits into your ear like a hearing aid and is made to be used with cellular or mobile phones ($35)—no more juggling the phone and the wheel and weaving all over the road!

Barbie rules at Toys R Us. They've got Olympic Skater Barbie, Florida Vacation Barbie with what looks like the beginning of a nasty sunburn, and, of course, Millennium Barbie, a vision in crushed black velvet with a "magical crystal to welcome in the new year," $32.95. Kind of scary: Harley-Davidson Barbie and Ken. Both clad in black leather with metal studs, Ken sports a ponytail and a goatee, while Barbie's got a lot of eyeliner and a noticeable smirk on her little plastic face. They're $70 each.

At Waters Place on the south side of town, Linens N Things has a wonderful teakettle shaped like an old-fashioned train engine, complete with cowcatcher and a bright red cab, $70. Next door, Kohl's sells silly animal-head slippers for $16, including lions, Scotties, bulldogs, and Tweety Bird. My favorites were an oversize pair of furry, clawed feet that looked

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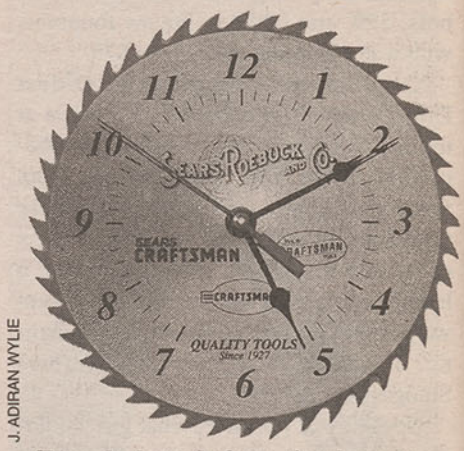

J. ADIRAN WYLIE

Shop clock made from circular saw blade at Sears.

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FREE! **Christmas Gift** with this ad. No purchase necessary.

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as if they belonged to the creatures from *Where the Wild Things Are.*

At Oak Valley Centre, Media Play has fun interactive games and learning tools like the $50 GeoSafari World Globe that asks 5,000 different questions, and a computerized Scrabble game ($30) that pits players against Maven, "the amazing opponent who reacts to your every move." (I hope Maven doesn't react like one of my teenage nephews, who used to tip over the board in frustration whenever he seemed to be losing.)

At White Rabbit Toys in Woodland Plaza, I almost tripped over a black Labrador retriever; I did a double take before I realized he wasn't real. At $49.95, he's very sweet and very huggable. I also found an extraordinarily realistic-looking electronic violin for $18.50 that plays a prerecorded tune when you saw away at the strings. According to the creatively spelled text on the box, apparently written in China, where the violin was made, the tunes include "Old to Joy."

Briarwood on a Saturday? Okay, maybe a bad idea. But by braving the crowds, I did get a chance to see which gifts were attracting the most attention. For instance, to judge by the number of women I saw fingering the merchandise, females love Claiborne for Men's polyester shirts with the buttery, soft feel of suede, $80 at Hudson's. Ditto for a fabulous Ellen Tracy midnight blue alpaca sweater jacket, $355. I didn't see anyone fingering the sweet, sunny Christmas china upstairs, but I liked the simple winter village pattern, available in everything from kitchen towels and Christmas ornaments to salt and pepper shakers and a tree-shaped serving dish.

The new Thomas Kinkade Gallery, featuring artwork and accessories by the self-proclaimed "painter of light," was a mob scene. I clawed my way in and found original oils of snow-covered, glowing cottages for $715, a $15 mouse pad, and, for $6, a "To Do" memo pad, which brought to mind an image of Kinkade himself industriously noting, "Monday: paint light."

The M Den carries U-M merchandising to sometimes hilarious extremes, like a $3.95 chip clip, a $55 inflatable chair, and a $13.95 "limited edition" model semi truck. Classy: a stained glass, Mission-

style lamp with a surprisingly subdued block M, $375. Sassy: the Officially Licensed Team Pacifier, $6.95.

My nomination for Store with the Weirdest Gift Idea of 1999 goes to the kiosk Rice Magic. The staff writes the name or message of your choice on a *grain of rice,* embeds it in a decorative bead, and incorporates it into a piece of jewelry. I am not making this up. The guy working the counter insisted on giving me a complimentary grain of rice with my name on it. Inanely, I carried it around with me for a good half hour before throwing it away.

You can find Pokémon stuff all over town—including Burger King, if you're willing to buy a kids' meal—but KB Toys has an especially wide selection, including card decks, stuffed animals, video games, coloring books, rubber balls, and even Pokémon Collector's Edition Monopoly, which is basically regular Monopoly except that the game pieces are in the shape of Pikachu and colleagues ($29.95).

Remember the piano floor mat in *Big* that played when you stepped on the keys? It's at the Disney Store for $42. Nearby, Suncoast Motion Picture Company sells a bazillion videos as well as Austin Powers shot glasses, two for $9.99, and a Monkees lunchbox that includes not only a video, but also a jigsaw puzzle ($40). I used to have a terrible crush on Davy Jones. So sue me; I was five years old.

At Jacobson's, I fell in love with a plush rocking horse with a fat nose like a moose and leather strap-on saddle ($100). A tag on his ear said "Squeeze me," but he didn't have any batteries, so I can't say for sure what he does. ("I don't know. Neigh?" suggested one helpful clerk.) Jake's also has an impressive four-foot-high Father Christmas wearing a faux fur, $475.

Cargo pants are everywhere! Abercrombie & Fitch even has its own house brand in khaki, green, black, and Day-Glo orange with drawstring ankles, Velcro cinches at the waist, and big pockets, $59. Huge multiwick candles are ubiquitous, too. Eddie Bauer Home has some of the nicest ones I saw: large creamy ovals with embedded sprays of pine, $69.

The millennium reared its head once again at Sears, where I found Millennium Series Craftsman power tools, and a witty shop clock with a circular saw blade for a face, $59. Sears is also the exclusive retailer for the "family size" version of George Foreman's Lean Mean Fat-Reducing Grilling Machine, $100. The display has a continuously running video starring George, in case you miss that QVC atmosphere.

Hemp moisturizer sounds like an oxymoron, but the Body Shop sells a hemp products sampler that includes hair conditioner, hand lotion, scented oil, lip balm, shampoo, and body wash—and, of course, a hemp bag to store it all in. Around the corner, Travel 2000 has a nice leather-covered hip flask, $20, for those who like to tipple while traveling. Once it's empty, they might need the Bert and Ernie travel pillow, $12.

Do you know someone who's a little obsessive about soft-boiled eggs? At Traver Village, Kitchen Port has a spring-activated egg piercer ($2.95), a $3.85 egg "topper" for cutting off the top of the shell, and an extremely cool egg-shaped timer: put it in the water with the egg, and it turns gradually from red to black, with marked gradations for soft, medium, and hard. It's $5.50.

Crown House of Gifts has several different collectible Christmas villages, including Dickens, Christmas in the City, and the more contemporary Snow Village, which even has a miniature McDonald's ($65). Here, I also had to laugh at a holiday figurine called the Jingle Bell Rock Santa, about a foot and a half tall. As the song plays, he dances. Badly. He's $39.99.

The Antiques Mall of Ann Arbor has a half a dozen rooms full of treasure. I can't guarantee what's there now, but when I stopped in, I found a nineteenth-century collapsible brass spy scope ($125), a set of small Santa Claus mugs perfect for holiday hot toddies ($8), and lovely antique fly-fishing rods, one of them in its original box ($50–$235).

By the end of the week, I was pretty much shopped—and millenniumed—out. But on my last stop I found a millennium-themed gift that I thought quite clever: the Millennium Bug, $22 at Whole Foods/Merchant of Vino. It's a corkscrew shaped like a generic insect; press down on its forelegs, and the rear legs act as levers, forcing the cork from the wine bottle. It won't do a darned thing to fix the Y2K mess, but I suspect that if you were to use it often enough, you probably wouldn't mind the power outages one little bit. Cheers. ■

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Pokémon collectibles are available all over town.

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From left to right:
Juli Fox, Ellen Stermer,
Micci Mitchell, Clarence Brown,
Kim Stasiak, Pam Fick.
(not pictured Laura Cole).

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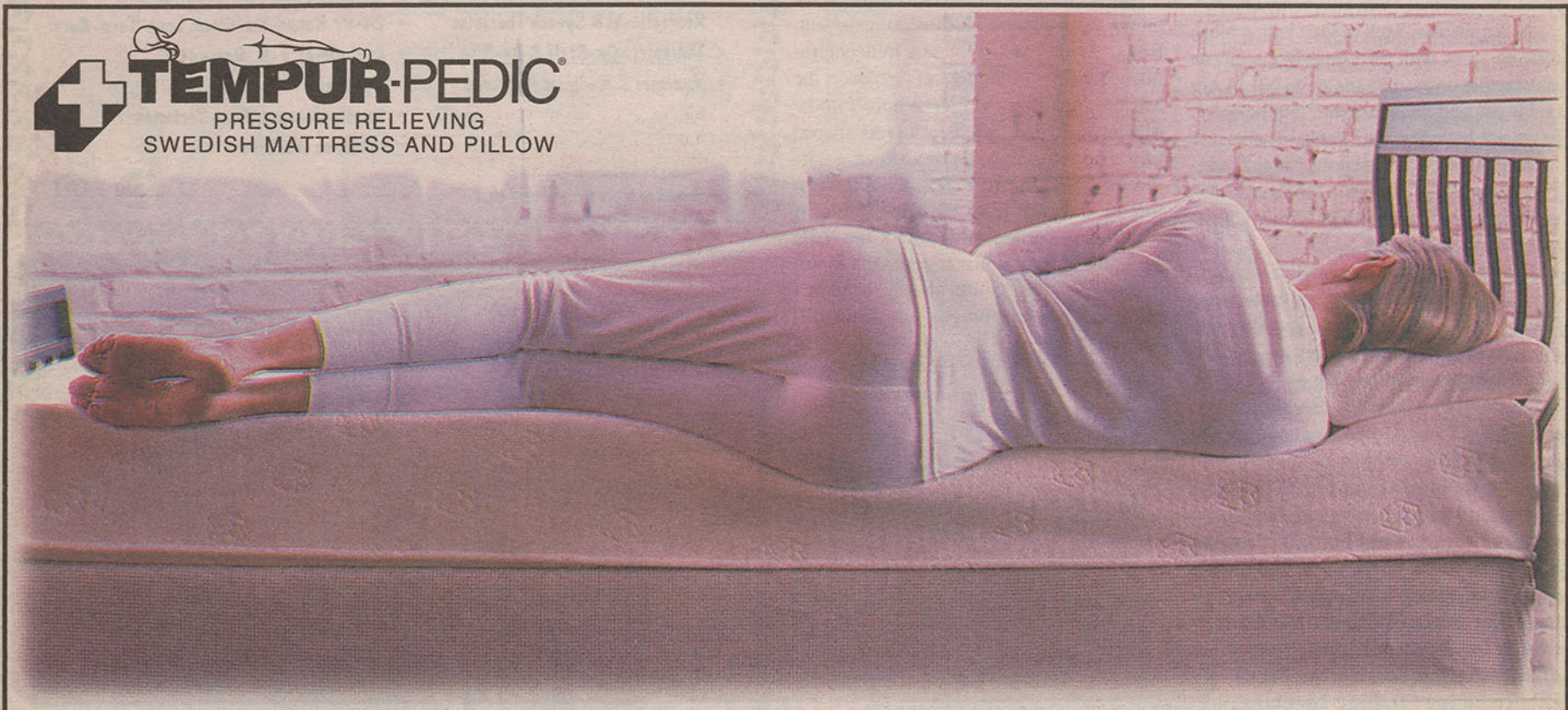

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MUSIC AT NIGHTSPOTS

by John Hinchey

These bookings come from information available at press time. Last-minute changes are always possible, so to be certain who will be playing, it's advisable to call ahead. Unless otherwise noted, live music runs from 9:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.

Amer's

312 S. State **327–2041**

The location of this popular deli across from the Diag features live music Thurs.–Sat., 8–10:30 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Dec. 2: Rick Stachura.** Poetic alterna-folk by this local singer-songwriter. Opening acts are **Scott Rogers,** a local singer-songwriter and guitarist whose upbeat folk-rock reflects influences by everyone from Springsteen to the Goo Goo Dolls, and **Doug Wood,** a folk and jazz guitarist from Cleveland. **Dec. 3: Mike Beattie.** Acoustic folk and rock by this Whitmore Lake singer-guitarist. Opening act is **Paul Kasurin,** a folk-rock singer-songwriter in the style of post-Beatles John Lennon. **Dec. 4: Julie Nager.** 17-year-old singer-songwriter from Rochester, Michigan, who specializes in soulful ballads, a la Sarah McLachlan and Tori Amos. **Dec. 9: Mike Beattie.** See above. Opening act is **Jim Presley,** a singer-songwriter from Rockwood, Michigan, who writes witty, folk-flavored songs. **Dec. 10:** TBA. **Dec. 11:** *Tentative.* **Blake Chen.** Pop-folk singer-songwriter, a Bay Area transplant from Royal Oak who has released 2 CDs. Opening act is **Richard Lawrence,** a Wyandotte singer-songwriter who writes witty pop-folk originals. He is accompanied tonight by keyboardist **Michael Shelata. Dec. 16: Michael Wagner.** Local singer-guitarist whose repertoire includes Delta blues, folk tunes, and folk-based originals. Opening act is **Jim Presley.** See above. **Dec. 17: Rick Stachura.** See above. Opening act is **Paul Kasurin.** See above. **Dec. 18: Mike Beattie.** See Zou Zou's. **Dec. 24 & 25:** No music. **Dec. 30: Robert Godsey.** See above. **Dec. 31:** TBA.

Azure Mediterranean Grille

625 Briarwood Circle at S. State **747–9500**

This Briarwood-area Mediterranean-style restaurant features live flamenco and Arabic music, Saturdays, 8–10 p.m. No cover, no dancing. December schedule TBA.

Arbor Brewing Company

114 E. Washington **213–1393**

This downtown brewpub features live music on Wed., Thurs., and occasional other nights, 9 p.m.–midnight unless otherwise noted. No cover, no dancing. **Every Wed.: Ann Arbor Irish Ensemble.** Celtic and North American fiddle music by this local 8-piece acoustic band led by the rhythm section of fiddler and drummer Pam Meisel, bassist Todd Perkins, and well-known local graphic artist Allan Reid on fiddle and banjo. 8:30–11 p.m. **Dec. 2: The Blue Rays.** Local blues band led by guitarist Dave Kaftan. **Dec. 5: Tangerine Trousers.** Spunky pop-rock with tight vocal harmonies by this Ferndale quartet. **Dec. 16: Steve Nardella Rock 'n' Roll Trio.** Ann Arbor's most passionate and compelling roots-rocker performs fiercely cathartic, blues-drenched reworkings of rock 'n' roll and rockabilly classics and obscure gems, along with some authentic Muddy Waters and John Lee Hooker blues. **Dec. 19: The Original Brothers & Sisters of Love.** Folk-rock originals by this local quintet whose music is an eclectic mix of Appalachian music, prog-rock, and sea shanties. Led by singer-songwriter-guitarists Tim and Jamie Monger (who also play accordion and mandolin, respectively), the band also includes bassist Scott McClintock, guitarist Greg McIntosh, violinist Liz Auchinvole, and a percussionist TBA. **Dec. 23: Al Hill and the Love Butlers.** Soulful swing, New Orleans–style funk, and boogie-woogie blues by this local band led by Hill's wailing vocals and pumping piano. The band has a CD, *Willie Mae.* **Dec. 30: Motor City Sheiks.** Jump blues originals by this Detroit quartet led by blues harpist and vocalist Mark Robinson and former Detroit Blues Band guitarist Emmanuel Garza. The band recently released its debut CD, *Working Everyday.* **Dec. 31: "Welcome to the Future."** Dance party with DJ Mr. Largebeat.

nightspots

GREGORY FOX

The Easy Street Jazz Band
Preservation Hall on Ashley Street

For two and a half hours every Friday, the Bird of Paradise becomes Ann Arbor's version of New Orleans's Preservation Hall. During the Bird's happy hour, the Easy Street Jazz Band plays what's probably the happiest music America has produced: traditional old-time jazz.

Cornetist Paul Klinger has led the band for almost thirty years, since it grew out of parties and jam sessions held at his house on Easy Street on Ann Arbor's southeast side. Since then, a lot of people have come and gone from the band. Klinger is the only original member, but pianist James Dapogny has been on board for most of the time, and the current trombone player, Chris Smith, is the son of a former trombonist in the band.

You might expect a Friday happy hour to attract downtown professionals relaxing after their workweek. But almost everyone in the audience is of retirement age, there to hear songs that are about as old as they are. It's a crowd made up mostly of regulars, the bartender told me. He warned me to find a table quickly; almost all of the fans arrive at about the same time, and they pack the place.

They know the music well. Like Preservation Hall crowds, they applaud not only after every song, but also after every solo. Klinger introduces one song by saying it's from "the Bix era," feeling no need to further identify 1920s cornetist and pianist Bix Beiderbecke.

"Is Claire here?" asks Klinger, looking out into the audience. A woman answers yes. "You always want 'Struttin' with Some Barbecue,' " he says. "It's in this set just for you." Klinger leads the band into the Louis and Lil Hardin Armstrong classic, which starts with a complex interplay between the cornet and Smith's trombone and then, like so many traditional New Orleans songs, jumps from solo to ecstatic solo with a great sense of theatrics, until all the instruments come back together for the finale.

The band members, who sometimes perform in matching red short-sleeved shirts, all play their parts in the traditional jazz combo well. Eric Nyhuis crashes through drum solos and taps out rhythms on his high-hat cymbals, Ted Harley nimbly plucks his stand-up bass with his long, spindly arms, and Dapogny's rambling ragtime piano and Mike Jones's sweet clarinet carry the tunes along. On some standards, vocalist Susan Chastain joins the band, her voice a clear, precise alto.

With the rare exception, like the morbid blues classic "St. James Infirmary," the Easy Street Jazz Band's repertoire is good-time-music, mostly pieces from the 1920s written by the likes of Sidney Bechet, King Oliver, and Jelly Roll Morton. The variety in the sets comes when they take a break from the playful, energetic numbers and roll languidly through ballads, each musician accenting a few notes until another speaks up, sounding like the slow rise and fall of waves.

The Easy Street Jazz Band plays from 5:30 to 8 p.m. every Friday at the Bird of Paradise.

—Erick Trickey

The Ark

316 S. Main **761–1451**

Michigan's leading showcase for American and international performers of all forms of traditional music. Cover (usually $9–$11), no dance floor, but for some shows space is cleared for dancing. Discounts (usually $1) on cover for members ($15/year; families, $25/year). All shows begin at 8 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Ticket sales: If a sellout is anticipated, advance tickets are sold and (occasionally) two shows are scheduled. Otherwise, tickets are available at the door only. **Dec. 1: Open Stage.** All acoustic performers invited. The first 12 acts to sign up beginning at 7:30 p.m. get to perform. The most talented and popular Open Stage performers are offered their own evenings at the Ark. $3 (members & students, $2). **Dec. 2: Fred Eaglesmith.** Country-rock singer-songwriter. See Events. **Dec. 3: The Paperboys.** Celtic band from Vancouver. See Events. **Dec. 4: Loudon Wainwright III.** Veteran singer-songwriter. See Events. **Dec. 5: Anson Funderburgh & the Rockets.** Texas blues band. See Events. 7:30 p.m. **Dec. 7: Rick Danko.** Legendary former member of The Band. See Events. **Dec. 8: Paul Geremia.** Acoustic blues singer-guitarist. See Events. **Dec. 9: Rickie Lee Jones.** Pop-jazz troubadour. See Events. **Dec. 11: Dick Siegel.** World-class local singer-songwriter. See Events. **Dec. 12: Ricky Skaggs.** Celebrated bluegrass icon. See Events. 7 & 9 p.m. **Dec. 16: Grey Eye Glances.** Folk-rock band from Philadelphia. See Events. **Dec. 17: RFD Boys.** Authentic bluegrass by these longtime local favorites. They have appeared in numerous festivals and even made the cover of *Bluegrass Unlimited* magazine. Their shows blend top-notch musicianship with funny between-songs dialogue. They have several recordings, including *Live and Unrehearsed,* a recording of a 1994 Ark performance. Tonight's show is a benefit for Allen Creek Preschool. **Dec. 18: Joel Mabus.** Multi-instrumental folkie singer-songwriter. See Events. **Dec. 19: Over the Rhine.** Rock 'n' roll quartet from Cincinnati. See Events. **Dec. 26: George Bedard & the Kingpins, Cub Koda, Billy Kirchen, & Sarah Brown.** Blues & rockabilly extravaganza featuring the all-star collaboration of several Ann Arbor–bred roots-rock musicians. See Events. 7:30 p.m. **Dec. 29: "Crossroads Ceili."** An evening of Irish music and dance. See Events. **Dec. 31: The Stealth Project.** With **Christine Lavin** and other singer-songwriters. 7:30 & 10:30 p.m.

Babs' Liberty Street Piano Bar

112 W. Liberty **662–8757**

This downtown lounge features live music Tues.–Sat., 9 p.m.–midnight. No cover, no dancing. **Every Tues.: Eric & Darren.** 90s alternative rock covers by this duo from the Killer Flamingos. **Every Thurs.: Pat Brennan.** Pop standards from the 40s to the 90s by this Dearborn singer-pianist. **Dec. 1: El Gordo Band.** Vintage folk-rock and blues guitar and piano duo. **December 8: Summers, Delaney, & Sharp.** Acoustic gypsy swing in the style of Django Reinhardt by the local trio of guitarists Joe Summers and Brian Delaney and upright bassist Dave Sharp. **Dec. 15: El Gordo Band.** See above. **Dec. 22: Summers, Delaney, & Sharp.** See above. Weekend schedule TBA.

Bird of Paradise

207 S. Ashley **662–8310**

Intimate jazz club co-owned by prominent jazz bassist Ron Brooks. Live music seven nights a week, 9 p.m.–1 a.m. (Fri.–Mon.) & 8 p.m.–midnight (Tues.–Thurs.). Cover (unless otherwise noted), no dancing. **Every Sun.: Paul Finkbeiner & Friends.** Popular, high-energy jam session led by trumpeter Finkbeiner. No cover. **Every Mon.: Bird of Paradise Orchestra.** 14-piece ensemble organized by bassists Ron Brooks and Paul Keller to showcase original compositions and arrangements by musicians from southeastern Michigan. The varying lineup includes local and area jazz musicians. **Every Wed. & Thurs.** (except December 8 & 9)**: Ron Brooks Trio.** One of the state's finest jazz bassists, club co-owner Brooks is joined by pianist Ellen Rowe or Bill Heid and drummer Pete Siers. **Every Fri.: The Easy Street Jazz Band.** *See review, above.* Traditional old-time jazz by this local ensemble led by cornetist and saxophonist Paul Klinger. 5:30–8 p.m. **Dec. 3 & 4:** TBA. **Dec. 7:** TBA. **Dec. 8 & 9: Dan Faehnle.** This jazz guitarist from Seattle, a Toledo native, is backed by the Ron Brooks Trio. **Dec. 10 & 11:** TBA. **Dec. 14: Prime Numbers.** Local avant-garde free jazz quintet. **Dec. 17 & 18:** TBA. **Dec. 21:** TBA. **Dec. 24 & 25:** Closed. **Dec. 28: Prime Numbers.** See above. **Dec. 31:** TBA.

The Blind Pig

208 S. First St. **996–8555**

This local music club features live music five nights a week, with a varied assortment of local and out-of-town rock 'n' roll, blues, reggae, and dance bands. 10:30 p.m.–1:30 a.m., and DJs (usually) on Sun. (8 p.m.–12:30 a.m.). If there's an opening act, the headliner usually goes on stage between 11:30 p.m. and midnight. Closed most Mon. Cover (except Fri. happy hour), dancing. **Every Fri.** (6–8 p.m.)**: Finnigan's Way.** Traditional and contemporary Irish drinking music. **Every Sun.: Swing-a-Billy.** DJ Del Villareal spins swing, jump blues, and rockabilly records. Also, free swing & jitterbug

dance lessons (8–9 p.m.). **Every Tues.: "Showcase Night."** With four different young local bands each week. **Dec. 1: Agents of Good Roots.** Improvisational funk-flavored rock 'n' roll from Richmond, Virginia. See Events. **Dec. 2: Hello Dave.** Chicago quartet that plays solid rocking country-funk with a down-home flavor. Opening act is **Smokestack,** a bluesy, groove-oriented Ypsilanti quintet. **Dec. 3: Strangefolk.** Jam-oriented folk-rock quartet from Vermont. See Events. **Dec. 4: Juliana Hatfield.** Acoustic rock 'n' roll band led by the former Blake Babies diva. See Events. **Dec. 8: Bottle Prophets.** See Underground. Opening act is **Meropoix** (see Rick's). **Dec. 9: Knee Deep Shag.** Blues-based, funk-flavored rock 'n' roll band from Kalamazoo. Opening act is **Bambu,** a local funk-rock band led by vocalist Monty Arnold. **Dec. 10: Domestic Problems.** Funk-rock sextet from Grand Rapids. Opening act is **The Velvet Beat,** a local frat-rock band. **Dec. 11: Ghettobillies.** Local acoustic guitar trio that specializes in sweet & gritty country-rock with glee club harmonies, a frat band lyrical sensibility, and occasional neopsychedelic yearnings. Opening act is **Colonel Sun,** a local beat-heavy college pop quintet. Tonight's show is also a birthday party for Blind Pig owner Roy Goffett. **Dec. 15: "Live and Loud!"** With 3 punk bands from Ypsilanti: **The Sinsations, 4%,** and **The Beowulf Scantron Test. Dec. 16: The Workhorse Movement.** Detroit band whose heavy, guitar-driven rock 'n' roll has provoked comparisons to Helmet and the Rollins Band. Opening acts are **Forge,** a local industrial-metal trio, and **Fringe,** an industrial-metal quartet from Toledo. **Dec. 17: Electric Boogaloo.** Hippie rock band from Ypsilanti that recently released its debut CD, *Blues for the Dog*. Opening acts are **Clovis Minor,** a jam-oriented rock band from Ypsilanti, and **Giant,** a local pop-rock band. **Dec. 18:** TBA. **Dec. 22: Howling Diablos.** This wild-humored blues and rock 'n' roll band from Detroit is led by singer-guitarist Martin Gross, the former Urbations drummer and Progressive Blues Band guitarist. With guitarist Guy Hedrick, bassist Michael Hollis, former Urbations saxophonist Johnny Evans, and drummer Spencer Hirsch. Opening act is **The Still,** a U-M student sextet that plays groove-oriented acoustic rock 'n' roll. **Dec. 23: Freed.** Local alternative rock band. Opening acts are **I Hate Mars,** a hard-rock band from Royal Oak, and **Red Dye 9,** an alternative pop-rock band from Detroit. **Dec. 24 & 25:** Closed. **Dec. 29: Muzzle, Inc.** Detroit area punk band that blends rap and hardcore. **Dec. 30: Mazinga.** Ypsilanti band that plays rough, raw, Detroit-style rock 'n' roll. Opening acts are **Sublimation,** a local hard-rock quartet that describes its music as "psychedelic space-ranger rock on hyperdrive," and **12 Angry Steps,** a local rock 'n' roll band. **Dec. 31: "Millennium Bash."** With **Funktelligence** and other bands TBA. See Events.

Cafe Felix

204 S. Main **662–8650**

This downtown cafe features live music Fri., 9–midnight. No cover, no dancing. **Every Fri.: Randy Napoleon Quartet.** Jazz standards and originals, from bebop to modern styles, by a quartet led by this local guitarist. With drummer Dave Brophy, bassist Justin Marx, and a trumpeter TBA.

Cavern Club

210 S. First **332–9900**

This new downtown club, in the Celebration Cellars banquet space in the basement under the former Antiques Market Place, features live music Wed.–Sat. 10 p.m.–2 a.m. Cover, dancing. Ages 21 & older admitted. **Every Fri.** (6–9 p.m.)**: Drivin' Sideways.** Vocalist Pontiac Pete Ferguson has moved to upstate New York, but this veteran local country band keeps on keeping on, with a variety of guest vocalists TBA. Their repertoire is rooted in classic honky-tonk, but they also cover everything from early Chuck Berry to Sam & Dave to the Meters. With guitarist Bob Schetter, bassist Chris Goerke, drummer Mark Newbound, and pedal steel guitarist Mark O'Boyle. **Every Wed.: Reggae Wednesday.** With DJ Etienne. **Every Thurs.: "Hip-Hop Night."** With DJ Trenz. **Dec. 3: George Bedard & the Kingpins.** Super-fine honky-tonk dance tunes from swing to vintage blues, country, rockabilly, and early rock 'n' roll classics, with some memorable originals penned by guitar genius Bedard. With drummer Rich Dishman and bassist Randy Tessier. The band has released 2 acclaimed CDs, *Hip Deep* and *Upside*. **Dec. 4: Al Hill & the Love Butlers.** See Arbor Brewing. **Dec. 10: Thornetta Davis Band.** Jump blues, R&B, and roots-rock band led by this acclaimed Etta James–style vocalist from Detroit. **Dec. 11: Starlight Drifters.** Rockabilly and honky-tonk originals and covers by this local quartet led by indomitable local rocker Chris Casello, who plays electric and steel guitar. With vocalist Billy Alton, bassist Rudy Varner, acoustic guitarist Mike Thompson, and drummer Mark Gray. The band's recently released 2nd CD, *Every Note a Pearl,* comes with a recommendation from Jack Scott, whose immortal "The Way I Walk" the band covers. **Dec. 17: Lady Sunshine & the X Band.** Local gospel-flavored blues band led by Lady Sunshine, a fiery, rich-voiced singer whose style is something of a cross between Aretha Franklin, Koko Taylor, and Denise LaSalle. **Dec. 18: Joce'lyn B & the Detroit Street Players.** Detroit blues band led by Joce'lyn B, a popular vocalist who's said to blend the voice of "Bessie Smith, the attitude of Mae West, and the mouth of Moms Mabley." Her recently released debut CD, *Bitch a da Blues,* features originals that range from the racy "Sweet Potato Pie" to the poignant "Chase Away the Blues," along with covers of "Walking the Dog," "Mustang Sally," and the Hayes & Porter standard "When Something Is Wrong with My Baby." **Dec. 24 & 25:** Closed. **Dec. 31: "New Year's Eve Gala."** With the **Starlight Drifters** and **Thornetta Davis.** See Events.

City Limits

2900 Jackson Rd. **665–4444**

Lounge at the Clarion Hotel. Dance bands on weekends, jam sessions on Wed., and a DJ on Thurs. 8:30 p.m.–1:30 a.m. Cover (Fri. & Sat. only), dancing. **Every Thurs.: Latin Night.** A DJ spins Latin dance records. **Every Fri. & Sat.:** A DJ spins Top 40 dance records.

Conor O'Neill's

318 S. Main **665–2968**

Downtown Irish pub with live music Sun. (6:30–10 p.m.) & Tues.–Thurs. (9 a.m.–2 a.m.). **Every Sun.: Traditional Irish Session.** All invited to join or listen to an instrumental jam session. **Every Tues.: Irish Session.** Open mike for singers and instrumentalists. **Dec. 1: Mossy Moran.** Traditional singer from Ireland. **Dec. 2: Len Wallace & Colin Paige.** Traditional Irish songs by Wallace, a member of the Diggers, and Page, a member of the Jar. **Dec. 8: The Jar.** Traditional Irish music by this upbeat ensemble. **Dec. 9 & 15: Mossy Moran.** See above. **Dec. 16: Finnigan's Way.** See Blind Pig. **Dec. 22: The Jar.** See above. **Dec. 23: Mossy Moran.** See above. **Dec. 29: Len Wallace & Colin Paige.** See above. **Dec. 30: Mossy Moran.** See above.

Crazy Wisdom Tea Room

114 S. Main **665–9468**

This tea room above Crazy Wisdom Bookstore features live music Fri., 8:30–10:30 p.m. No cover, no dancing. December schedule TBA.

Cross Street Station

511 W. Cross St., Ypsilanti **485–5050**

Live dance bands Fri. & Sat., DJs on Sun. and Tues., and open mike on Wed. Dancing, cover. **Every Sun.: Super Mod Ska Explosion.** With "Sound Scientist" Chuck Damage. Ages 18 & older admitted. No cover. **Every Mon.: Havoc Presents.** DJs with hip-hop and other dance music. **Every Tues.: Retro Dance Party.** DJ Speed E. Smith plays 70s & 80s dance music. **Every Wed.: Open Mike Night.** All solo musicians and bands invited. Advance sign-up required. **Every Thurs.–Sat.:** Live bands TBA.

Crow Bar

309 S. Main **668–0111**

This downtown club features live pianists, Fri.–Sat., 9 p.m.–2 a.m. Cover, no dancing. **Every Fri. & Sat.: "Dueling Pianos."** A wide range of popular standards and pop hits by 2 or 3 singer-pianists, including Jim Bearup, Dana Croll, and Craig McMahon.

Del Rio

122 W. Washington **761–2530**

No cover, no dancing. Local jazz groups every Sun., 5:30–9 p.m. **Dec. 5: Rick Burgess Quartet.** Jazz ensemble led by pianist Burgess and featuring alto saxophonist Vincent York. **Dec. 12: Pete Siers Quartet.** Local jazz ensemble led by drummer Siers and featuring Detroit guitarist Dan Stanley. **Dec. 19: Rick Burgess Quartet.** See above. **Dec. 26: Jake Reichbart Quartet.** Jazz ensemble led by local guitarist Reichbart.

The Drowsy Parrot

105 N. Ann Arbor Rd., Saline **429–8595**

This Saline coffeehouse features open mikes on Thurs. and live music on occasional Fri. & Sat., 8–10 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Thurs.: Open Mike.** All acoustic musicians, poets, and storytellers invited. Hosted by local singer-songwriter Dave Boutette. **Dec. 3 & 4:** TBA. **Dec. 10: Summers, Delaney, & Sharp.** See Babs'. **Dec. 11: Patrick Flanagan & Cole Litimer.** Irish duo. **Dec. 17: The Lawn Jockeys. Dec. 18: Mike Anton.**

The Earle

121 W. Washington **994–0211**

Restaurant with live jazz Mon.–Sat. No cover, no dancing. **Every Mon. & Thurs.** (8–10 p.m.)**: Rick Burgess.** Solo piano. **Every Tues.** (8–10 p.m.)**: Rick Roe.** Solo piano. **Every Wed.** (8–10 p.m.)**: David Froseth.** Solo piano. **Every Fri. & Sat.: Rick Burgess Trio.** Jazz ensemble featuring pianist Burgess, drummer Robert Warren, and a bassist TBA.

Elbow Room

6 S. Washington, Ypsilanti **483–6374**

This Ypsilanti tavern feature DJs on Wed. & Sat., and live music Sun.–Tues., Thurs., & Fri. 9:30 p.m.–2 a.m. Dancing, no cover. **Every Mon.: Blues Open Mike.** All blues musicians invited. **Every Tues.: Blues Jam Session.** Hosted by **The Shed Davis Revue,** a local blues and blues-rock band. **Every Wed.: Retro Rock Dance Party.** With DJ Charlie Frey. **Dec. 2: Cobra Youth.** Local punk band. Opening acts are **The Delinquents,** an Ypsilanti punk band, and **Steve Knowlton & the Knowltones,** a local rock 'n' roll band. **Dec. 3: Cohort.** Veteran local classic rock band led by vocalist Mike Vegas. **Dec. 4: Split Decision.** Local blues and classic rock band. **Dec. 9: Blissfield.** Alternative rock 'n' roll band from Blissfield. Opening act is **Chowder,** a local alternative rock 'n' roll band. **Dec. 10 & 11: Another Round.** See TC's. **Dec. 16: Lovesick.** Local postpunk pop-rock band. Opening acts are **Gaffle,** a local neopsychedelic hard-rock band, and **The Jitterbug Finals. Dec. 17 & 18: Cohort.** See above. **Dec. 23:** TBA. **Dec. 24 & 25:** Closed. **Dec. 31: Second Banana.** Local rock 'n' roll band.

Espresso Royale Caffe

214 S. Main **668–1838**

The downtown location of this popular coffeehouse features live music on Fri. (9–11 p.m.) and Sat. (8–10 p.m.). **Dec. 3: Hijazi & Bering.** Traditional music of Palestine, Syria, Morocco, and Egypt by the duo of Bishr Hijazi on Arabic strings (oud, buzuk, and rabab) and flute and Glenn Bering on a variety of percussion instruments, including rabab, tabla, tar, and def. **Dec. 4: Nick Woods.** Acoustic folk-rock originals by this Chelsea singer-guitarist. **Dec. 10: Blue Moon Quartet.** Swing jazz by the local ensemble of violinist James Sneyd, vibes player Cary Kocher, bassist Glenn Bering, and drummer Eric Nyhuis. **Dec. 11: Lisa Hunter.** Funky, melodic folk-based pop-rock sung in a sharp, clear voice by this local singer-songwriter who has released a second CD, *Flying*. **Dec. 17: Coupe de Grass.** Local bluegrass band led by banjoist Lee Kaufmann and featuring twin fiddles and intricate vocal harmonies. **Dec. 18: Brian Henke.** New Age acoustic guitarist from Cleveland. **Dec. 24, 25, & 31:** No music.

Gandy Dancer

401 Depot **769–0592**

Restaurant with live piano every night. No cover, no dancing. **Every Sun.** (10 a.m.–2 p.m.)**: Charles Gabriel Jazz Trio.** Vintage New Orleans jazz by a Detroit trio led by singer-bassist (and New Orleans native) Gabriel. **Every Sun.** (3:30–9 p.m.)**: Alice Rhodes.** Solo piano. **Every Mon.–Wed.** (6–11 p.m.)**: Tim Howley.** This local pianist plays a variety of popular music and takes requests. **Every Thurs.** (6–9 p.m.)**, Fri.** (5:30–9 p.m.)**, & Sat.** (6 p.m.–midnight)**: Carl Alexius.** Veteran local jazz pianist who takes requests for oldies.

The Gypsy Cafe

214 N. Fourth Ave. **994–3940**

This coffeehouse features live music in its back room on weekends and occasional nights, 8 p.m.–midnight (unless otherwise noted). Cover (weekends only), no dancing. **Dec. 3: Brian Lipson.** This local trumpeter is joined by members of Poignant Plecostomus for a performance of a Miles Davis LP. **Dec. 4: Pam West.** Jam-oriented rock 'n' roll that blends psychedelia with blues, folk, jazz, worldbeat, and classical influences by a quartet led by singer-songwriter West, a native of Amish country in Ohio who got her start as a concert bassoonist in U.S. Army bands. Tonight she celebrates the release of her new CD, *Dweller on the Threshold*. Opening act is **Jere Stormer,** a local folk-oriented singer-songwriter. **Dec. 10:** TBA. **Dec. 11: Jo Serrapere.** This highly regarded local singer-songwriter is known for her spare, haunting ballads and blues and her sinewy, commanding vocals. She sings songs from her CD, *My Blue Heaven*. **Dec. 17: "The Repo Elf and Other Holiday Tales."** Nontraditional cabaret of Christmas carol parodies and twisted holiday tales. See Events. **Dec. 18:** TBA. **Dec. 23: Vint and Mathilda.** Original songs reflecting an eclectic mix of influences, from Gypsy and Middle Eastern music to Dylan and American folk music, by the duo of singer-songwriter and guitarist Vint Blackburn and violinist Mathilda Nance. **Dec. 24, 25, & 31:** No music.

The Habitat

3050 Jackson Rd. **665–3636**

Lounge at Weber's Inn. Solo piano (6–9 p.m.) by **Adam Riccinto** (Tues.–Fri.) and **Tom Knapp** (Sat. & Sun.). Dancing, no cover (except New Year's Eve). **Every Mon.: "Swank Life."** DJ Al Velour spins vintage big band records. Period attire encouraged. 4 p.m.–midnight. **Dec. 1 & 2:** TBA. **Dec. 3 & 4: Immunity.** Local dancehall reggae band. **Dec. 7–11: The Buster Blues Band.** Local blues band led by singer-bassist Buster Wylie. **Dec. 19–23: Terry Cooper Band.** Top 40 dance band. **Dec. 24 & 25:** Closed. **Dec. 28–31: The Buster Blues Band.** See above. Also, in the ballroom, a New Year's Eve party with **Rumplestiltskin,** a Top 40 dance band.

The Heidelberg

215 N. Main **663–7758**

This rock 'n' roll club on the top floor of the Heidelberg restaurant features DJs Fri., 9:30 p.m.–1:30 a.m., and a swing band on Sun., 7–9:30 p.m. Cover, dancing. Also, occasional live music in the basement Rathskeller (no cover), 8 p.m. until midnight or later. Ages 21 & older admitted unless otherwise noted. **Every Sun.: II-V-I Orchestra.** Late-30s swing and 40s R&B. See Events. 7–9:30 p.m. **Every Fri.** (except December 24)**: Latino Night.** DJ Carlos plays salsa, merengue, reggae, and other Latin dance records. Also, salsa lessons. 9:30–10:30 p.m.

Kerrytown Bistro

415 N. Fourth Ave. **994–6424**

This Kerrytown restaurant features live jazz on Wed., 7–10 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Wed.: Jake Reichbart.** Solo jazz guitarist.

Leonardo's

2101 Bonisteel Blvd. **764–7544**

Performance area in the food court at the Pierpont Commons on the U-M North Campus. No dancing, no cover. **Dec. 3: "And the Winner Is."** Performance by the winner of Leonardo's November open mike competition. 9–11 p.m. **Dec. 6: Sachal Vasandani Quartet.** Jazz ensemble led by this young local pop-swing vocalist. 8–10 p.m. **Dec. 9: Thursday Night Jazz.** U-M music-student jazz ensembles TBA. **Dec. 10: Swing Dance Night.** Swing dancing to the **U-M Jazz Ensemble.** Dances taught by Paulette Brockington.

Lonely Hearts Club

211 E. Washington **913–5506**

This downtown Beatles-themed restaurant features live music Fri., Sat., & occasional other nights, 9–11 p.m. (unless otherwise noted). All performers are required to open and close their sets with a Beatles song. Cover, no dancing. **Dec. 1: Maggi, Pierce, & E.J.** Whimsical, trippy folk-rock by this Philadelphia trio that's been described as a cross-breeding of the B-52s and George Carlin with the Beatles and Abba. 8–10 p.m. **Dec. 3: Red Tie Affair.** Local blues-flavored jazz ensemble.

Dec. 4: Kristine Pettersen. Soulful, provocative urban originals by this local singer-songwriter and acoustic guitarist. Tonight she celebrates the release of her new CD, *Paradise*. **Dec. 10 & 11: "John Sinclair Freedom Rally."** Showing of **"Ten for Two,"** a film documentary about the December 10, 1971, concert, headlined by John Lennon, held in support of John Sinclair, the Ann Arbor poet and political activist who was then serving a 10-year sentence for marijuana possession. The showings are preceded at 8 p.m. by talks by Sinclair, his attorney Buck Davis, and the promoter of the Freedom Rally, Peter Andrews. Tickets $10 in advance and at the door. **Dec. 17: Tangerine Trousers.** See Arbor Brewing. **Dec. 18: The Gelcaps.** Local doo-wop quartet. **Dec. 24:** TBA. **Dec. 25:** Closed. **Dec. 31:** TBA.

Mudd House

317 W. Cross St., Ypsilanti 482–8020

This coffeehouse near the EMU campus features occasional live music. No cover, no dancing. **Every Thurs.: Open Mike.** All poets and musicians invited. 9 p.m.–2 a.m.

The Nectarine

510 E. Liberty 994–5436

This popular local New York–style dance club features DJs five nights a week and live music occasionally on Mon., 9 p.m.–2 a.m. Cover, dancing. **Every Fri.: Boys' Night Out.** With DJ Roger LeLievre. **Every Sat.: 70s & 80s Dance Party.** With DJ Roger LeLievre. **Every Tues.: Boys' Night Out.** See above. **Every Wed.: Disco Dance Party.** With DJ Groove Boy. **Every Thurs.: EuroBeat Dance Party.** European-style house, techno, and alternative dance music with DJ Roger LeLievre.

Rick's American Cafe

611 Church 996–2747

This campus-area club features DJs, Mon., Wed., & Thurs., and live music on weekends, 10 p.m.–1:30 a.m. Large dance floor. Dancing, cover. **Every Mon.: "Maui Mondays."** DJ John King plays a relaxing mix of dance and listening music. **Every Tues.: Haribu.** This local quartet plays Phish covers and similarly styled originals. No cover. **Every Wed.: "Modern Dance Party."** DJ John King plays high-energy dance music. **Dec. 2: "Techno Dance Party."** With DJs from Supermack Productions. **Dec. 3: The Bomb.** Pop-rock band from East Lansing. **Dec. 4: That's My Mama.** Classic rock 'n' roll cover band. **Dec. 9: "Techno Dance Party."** See above. **Dec. 10: Reverend Right Time.** Funk sextet from Flint and Saginaw. **Dec. 11: Meropoix.** This U-M student quintet plays jam-oriented rock 'n' roll originals and covers. **Dec. 16: "Techno Dance Party."** See above. **Dec. 17: Good Gravy.** Rock 'n' roll dance band from Detroit. **Dec. 18: Soulstice.** College rock cover band from East Lansing. **Dec. 23: Tongue & Groove.** Contemporary rock 'n' roll sextet from Detroit. **Dec. 24 & 25:** Closed. **Dec. 26 & 30:** TBA. **Dec. 31: "Millennium Dance Party."** With DJ John King. With champagne & a buffet.

Sweetwaters Cafe

107 S. Ann Arbor St., Saline 944–4054

Live music on Fri., 8–10 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Dec. 4: Dev Singh.** Blues, ballads, and soulful folk-styled originals by this local singer-songwriter who accompanies himself on guitar, autoharp, mouthbow, dulcimer, and piano. **Dec. 11: "Songs for a Winter Night."** Benefit for Hospice of Washtenaw with singer-guitarist **Pete Perez.** See Events. **Dec. 18: Delta 88.** Classy local country trio led by singer-songwriter and guitarist Danny Kline and featuring guitarist Alex Anest and bassist John Sperendi. **Dec. 25:** No music.

Tap Room

201 W. Michigan, Ypsilanti 482–5320

This popular downtown Ypsilanti tavern features live music five nights a week and a DJ on Thurs., usually 9:30 p.m.–1:30 a.m., with karaoke on Sun., 9 p.m.–1 a.m. Cover (Fri. & Sat. only), dancing. **Every Mon.: Open Mike Unplugged.** Hosted by **Chris Buhalis,** a local singer-songwriter and acoustic guitarist. All acoustic performers invited. 9:30 p.m.–1 a.m. **Every Tues.: Blues Jam.** Hosted by **The Terraplanes,** a local band led by singer-guitarist Jerry Mack that plays a mix of houserocking blues, uptown swing, soulful R&B, and roots rock. With two regular guests, guitarist Laif Alsadi and harmonica player Danny Pratt. All bands and musicians invited. **Every Wed.: Open Mike.** Hosted by **The Martindales,** a local band led by singer-guitarist Brian Brickley that plays blues and rock covers and originals. All acoustic and electric musicians invited. **Every Thurs.: "The Swing Shift."** With WCBN rockabilly DJ Del Villareal. **Dec. 3: The Blue Hawks.** Detroit area blues and rock quartet fronted by saxophonist Kelly "Hurricane" Connor. **Dec. 4: Blue V 10.** Blues band. **Dec. 10: Too Blue Feat.** Blues trio from Northville with a repertoire of obscure but tasty covers. **Dec. 11: The Martindales.** See above. **Dec. 17: Blow Top.** Rock 'n' roll originals and covers by this Detroit quartet. **Dec. 18: Lady Sunshine & the X Band.** See Cavern Club. **Dec. 24 & 25:** Closed. **Dec. 31: The Blue Hawks.** See above.

TC's Speakeasy

207 W. Michigan, Ypsilanti 483–4470

This downtown Ypsilanti tavern features DJs on Mon., Wed., & Thurs. (9 p.m.–1 a.m.) and dance bands on Fri. & Sat. (9:30 p.m.–1:30 a.m.). Also, karaoke on Tues. & Trivia Night on Wed. Solo piano by **Art Stephan** on Fri., 6–9 p.m. Dancing, no cover unless otherwise noted. **Every Sun.: "Great American Blues Jam."** All blues musicians invited. Hosted by Liberty Street Blues Project guitarist Danny Pratt. 8 p.m.–midnight. **Every Thurs.: "Homegrown Night."** Showcase of up-and-coming local musicians and bands. **Dec. 3: Another Round.** 50s, 60s, & contemporary rock 'n' roll by this veteran local outfit formerly known as the Billy Band. **Dec. 4: Electric Boogaloo.** See Blind Pig. **Dec. 10: Twistin' Tarantulas.** Detroit rockabilly band. **Dec. 11: Deep Space 6.** Local Grateful Dead cover band. **Dec. 17: Witch Doctors.** This local blues and R&B band led by singer-guitarist Thayrone, best known as the host of WEMU's nationally syndicated *Bone Conduction Music Show,* plays what Thayrone calls "way-strong mojo, ritualistic barroom blues healing." Lead vocalist is veteran country/blues singer Jim Tate, who also plays blues harp and guitar. With bassist Furry and drummer Mike "The Hammer" Stutso. **Dec. 18: Astro Pimps.** Local funk band. Opening act is **Chowder** (see Elbow Room). **Dec. 24 & 25:** Closed. **Dec. 31: Rhythm House.** Motown, blues, and classic funk by this Royal Oak band.

Theo-Doors

705 W. Cross, Ypsilanti 485–6720

This EMU campus–area restaurant turns into a dance club after 10 p.m. Disco karaoke on Wed. Cover, dancing. **Every Mon., Thurs., & Sat.: Modern & Retro.** DJs spin Top 40 dance tunes. **Every Tues.: Swing Night.** DJ spins vintage and contemporary swing records. Free swing dance lessons. **Every Wed.: Retro & Disco.** DJs spin Top 40 dance tunes. **Every Fri.:** Live bands TBA.

Touchdown Cafe

1220 South University 665–7777

This campus-area cafe features DJs Thurs.–Sat., 10 p.m.–2 a.m. Cover, dancing. **Every Thurs.–Sat.:** DJs TBA play hip-hop and other dance records.

Underground

911 North University 763–4652

This all-ages club in the Michigan League basement features live music occasional Fridays, 8–10 p.m. No cover (unless otherwise noted), dancing. **Dec. 2: The Bottle Prophets.** U-M pop band led by a female vocalist. Preceded by poetry readings by U-M students. **Dec. 3: Open Mike.** All musicians invited. **Dec. 10: Olubus** and **Automobile.** U-M student bands.

Zou Zou's Cafe

101 N. Main, Chelsea 433–4226

This Chelsea cafe features live music Fri. & Sat., 8 p.m.–midnight. No cover, no dancing. **Dec. 3: Larry Watters.** 60s- and 70s-style folk & pop by this singer-songwriter from Canton. Opening act is **Robert Godsey,** a local singer-guitarist whose repertoire includes folk, country, jazz standards, and some rock 'n' roll. **Dec. 4: Scott Rogers.** See Amer's. **Dec. 10: Mike Beattie.** See Amer's. **Dec. 11: Laurel Federbush.** An eclectic mix of Celtic music, jazzy folk, and pop by this local harpist. **Dec. 17: Scott Rogers.** See Amer's. **Dec. 18: Gregory Stovetop.** Pop-folk originals influenced by Tom Petty and Bob Dylan by this local singer-songwriter. Opening act is **Jen Erb-Downward,** a Chicago singer-songwriter who performs issues-oriented pop-folk. **Dec. 24 & 25:** No music. **Dec. 31:** TBA. ■

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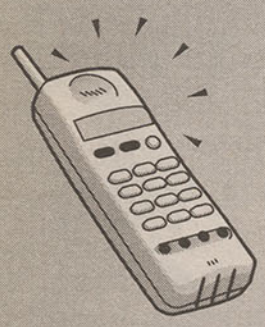

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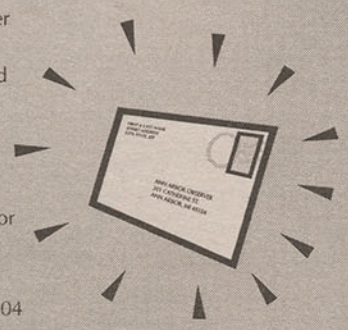

Personals Key

A=Asian
B=Black
C=Christian
D=Divorced
F=Female
G=Gay
H=Hispanic
H/WP=Height & Weight Proportionate
ISO=In Search Of
J=Jewish
✍=Letters
LTR=Long Term Relationship
M=Male
ND=Nondrinker
NS=Nonsmoker
☎=Phone Calls
P=Professional
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Ann Arbor Observer

Women Seeking Men

PERSONAL CALL
(900) 370–2072
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Pretty, **SWJF,** 5'7", 130 lbs., spiritual, not religious, degreed, energetic, very youthful 40ish, with childlike delight. Seeks similar LTR, to share pleasures of emotional intimacy, joy, hiking, meditation, yoga, life force food, open and honest communication, mutual trust. ☎7256✍

You are 34–45, open-minded, educated, childless, with a sense of humor, ready for LTR. I am a **SWF,** 37, attractive, educated, philosophical, and athletic. ☎7262✍

DBPF, 46, pretty, intelligent, ISO D/SM who is young at heart and likes to laugh. I love movies, Motown music, and good conversation. New to area and seeking someone to share fun times. ☎1003✍

Retired lady of quality, attractive and classy, well-educated, likes books, theater, music, good conversation, travel. Very fit, romantic, ambitious, outgoing, and loving. I love all that life has to offer. Call my voice greeting for more. ☎7289✍

You: classy, caring WPM, 56–67, NS, who wants a LTR with mutual respect, laughter, and good conversation. Me: new to A2, **WPF,** green-eyed, attractive, blonde, romantic with eclectic tastes. Let's meet for more details over a cappuccino or a glass of wine. ☎7272✍

Enticing, mid-size lure fishing for a kind and sincere keeper. Must be steadfast and have a porpoise. Jump on my hook for the long haul and an upstream journey. You'll be reel happy you took the bait. ☎1011✍

Attractive, intelligent, creative, funny, open-minded woman seeks professional, responsible, fun, spontaneous man. Diverse interests. 30ish. ☎7288✍

Attractive, **SWPF,** 31, fit, great sense of humor. ISO stable, but not too serious, WPM, 36–44, NS. Kids/pets OK . . . wife is not. ☎7286✍

SAPF, 33, 5'3", 115 lbs., well-educated, sense of humor, attractive, responsible, reliable, warm, sincere, honest, loyal, healthy, active. Seeks similar qualities in a SPM, 28–38, for a long-term relationship, possibly leading to marriage. ☎7274✍

SWF, 48, 5'3", plus-size redhead, well-rounded mom, artist, special ed caregiver looking for SWM soulmate. ☎7280✍

SWF, 34, 6', with a passion for the outdoors and animals. Loves canoeing, x-c skiing, biking, hiking, quiet times. ISO S/DWM with similar interests. ☎7282✍

AF, 28, health professional, elegant, loves the arts, reading, the outdoors, dogs, and much more. ISO 30+ Caucasian M, physician preferred. ☎7273✍

Nontraditional **SWF,** 39, 5'6", 135 lbs., irreverent humor, seeks chemistry with SM, 29–49, NS, youthful, very funny, affectionate, good-hearted, smart. ☎1016✍

Sensual, bright, active, fit, **DWPF** seeks WPM, 50±, for a friend, then partner, to share delights (travel, beaches, dance, theater, concerts) and explore all that appeals. ☎7267✍

Beautiful blonde Sicilian. Blue eyes, 5'6", 130 lbs., mid 30s. Loves to work out, read, travel (esp. Mexico, Italy, & Middle East). Catholic. Seeks handsome, single man, 30–42, with similar interests for LTR. ☎1015✍

Attractive, **SWPF,** warm, funny, smart, kind, early 40s, comfortably round ISO warm, honest, SPM, 34–48, NS, for conversation, poss. romance, marriage/kids. ☎7291✍

F double Cancer ISO M Sag that I 8 with 11/7 at WCC. Three degrees away from Einstein; how many from U? ☎1006✍

I am a beautiful, active **DBW** in my 40s who teaches high school students for a living and likes to travel. I am looking for a handsome, professional man who is sensitive, outgoing, NS, and is financially, physically, socially, psychologically stable and wants a LTR. I am open to all races. ☎1019✍

Men Seeking Women

PERSONAL CALL
(900) 370–2072
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DWM, 48, PhD, 5'9", 150 lbs. Researcher and farmer in environment, ecology, agriculture. ISO woman scientist to share rural life, foreign travels, romance. ☎6281✍

I read before sleep, dance well, esteem tofu, adore children, abstain from country music, see lots of movies, cherish friends, yearn to fall in love; am described as appearing younger than my age (49), very fit, funny, sexy, perceptive. ☎1004✍

DWPM ISO DWPF, 55–60, to share music, theater, travel, and the daily joys of life. I'm fit, trim, easy to be with, enjoy life, comfortable in a suit or jeans. Letter, please. ☎1013✍

SWM, 43, 170 lbs., NS/ND, active and energetic. I like museums, dancing, downhill skiing, and I have a great sense of humor. Seeking SWF, 30–40, NS, slim, who likes art, conversation, music, and exercise. Are you a person who can laugh at life with me and do all this in moderation? ☎7265✍

SWM, fit, slim, intelligent, educated, honest, accommodating. Interests: books, movies, music, travel. ISO similar SWF, intelligent, compatible, attractive, late 30s–early 50s. ☎1012✍

Smart, funny, interesting, **SWM,** 42, creative, self-employed, ISO LTR with similar type, NS woman for romance. ☎7238✍

SWPM, 38, 6', athletic, easygoing, good sense of humor, caring, open, enjoys all sports, travel, books. ISO SWPF, warm, slender, talkative for LTR. ☎1007✍

Intelligent, athletic **SM,** 39, 5'10", physician, dark-haired, enjoys movies, music, working out daily. Looking for an intelligent, attractive, and fit woman for possible relationship. ☎7284✍

WPM, 46, 6'2", recently returned to AA from Europe, seeks friendship with childless, non-religious, coffee-drinking, sushi-loving, 5'7" plus, WPF. ☎7283✍

Professor from New England, 51, 5'10", trim, enjoys jogging, plays, nature, films, x-c skiing. Seeks intelligent, fit woman (40–50) for relationship. ☎7269✍

SWM, 39, 6'1", fit. California transplant to AA. Engineer turned medical student. Loving my new field, but missing someone special to share life, movies, hiking, dining, laughter, travel, quiet times. LTR with right woman. ☎7218✍

Romantic, realist, **SWPM,** 43, 5'8", fit, no dependents, intuitive, humorous, persevering, and more. Seeking fit, emotionally available, SWF for happy, healthy relationship. (To the lady who left a RSVP #: please try contacting me again. The # you gave me was invalid.) ☎7247✍

Educated, humorous, **DWPM,** lover of rock, symphonies, and outdoors. ISO attractive woman, 34–41, with at least 10 years in a recent marriage. Widows best (?). ☎6946✍

Let's get real. There's no BMW, no PhD. There's common sense, a good heart, and a good job. Seeking SWF, 35–45, tall, musical, artistic, NS, who likes a gentleman. Letters with photo, please. ☎1014✍

SWM, 38, tall, trim, talk-is-cheap kind of guy. I'm waiting for that rare type of youthful, attractive, intelligent, spellbinding, nontypical female. ☎1018✍

DWM, 49, 5'10", attractive, honest, caring, humorous, intriguingly romantic, passionate, enjoying life's offerings. ISO fun, down-to-earth, creative, attractive, DWF ready for an uncommonly sincere LTR. ☎6885✍

SWM, 39, 5'7", 155 lbs., educated, and sensitive. ISO serious SWF for laughter, depth, adventure, and communication. ☎1017✍

PERSONALS

SWM, 50, 6'4", physically fit, attractive, intelligent, great sense of humor, open and honest, have both a spiritual and a wild side, love most physical activities—I flipped over skiing last year. Looking for companionship and more. ☎7271✍

Women Seeking Women

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Men Seeking Men

PERSONAL CALL
(900) 370–2072
18 or older. Touch-Tone phone. $1.95/min.

GWM, 61, 5'6", 155 lbs., honest, stable, sensual, healthy, ISO drug-free, healthy male under 50 to share romance, companionship, for a possible LTR. ☎1005✍

Friendships

PERSONAL CALL
(900) 370–2072
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Septuagenarian woman with the energy and enthusiasm of a 50-year-old seeking friend, male or female, to walk, talk, and do things with. ☎7279✍

General Personals

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Are you new in town? Ready to get out, meet new people, and involve yourself in the community? **The Ann Arbor Jaycees are what you are looking for!** As a leadership training organization for adults ages 21–39, we offer you the chance to improve yourself and your community while making new friends and having fun. Come see what we are all about at our membership meetings on the first Thursday of every month at Washtenaw Community College in the Morris J. Lawrence Bldg. at 7:30 p.m. Check us out at our website at www.a2jaycees.org, see the Events Calendar for our upcoming activities, or call 913–9629 for more information.

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"You don't have to ski to be a member!" (But if you want to ski, we'll teach you!) The AASC offers year-round social and sports activities for singles/couples 21 and over from Ann Arbor and surrounding communities. Established organization averaging 600 members! Come check us out at our biweekly Thursday meetings, Dec. 2 and 16. Meetings start at 8 p.m., with socializing and beer/wine/pop bar after the formal meeting is over. Every other meeting is a "dance meeting," where a DJ plays tunes after the meeting (that's Dec. 2 & Dec. 30 this month). Meetings are held at Schwaben Halle, upstairs at 217 S. Ashley St., one block west of Main St. between Liberty and Washington, in Ann Arbor. Upcoming events for members, guests, and newcomers include our annual **New Year's Ski Trip** (both cross-country and downhill) in Sault Sainte Marie, Ontario, Dec. 29–Jan. 2; and a **Caribbean Cruise** Jan. 23–29, 2000. To get more information on these events, including sign-up procedures, call the Ann Arbor Ski Club Hotline at (734) 761–3419 or visit our website at www.a2skiclub.org. Or come to a meeting, or become a member and receive the member newsletter!

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Men Seeking Women

I read before sleep, dance well, esteem tofu, adore children, abstain from country music, see lots of movies, cherish friends, yearn to fall in love; am described as appearing younger than my age (49), very fit, funny, sexy, perceptive. ☎1004✍

PERSONAL "AD OF THE MONTH"!
Personal ads in the Ann Arbor Observer are eligible for our monthly contest. The winner, chosen for creativity and originality, will receive certificates for Dinner for Two at The Earle and Coffee and Dessert for two at Espresso Royale Caffe.

To place an Ann Arbor Observer Personal ad, see form on page 137.

ESPRESSO ROYALE CAFFE
the earle

CLASSIFIEDS

Employment

Dependable people to run snow removal route. Must have flexible schedule. Young, old, male/female. $200/snow. (734) 428–1247.

Salesperson
Ceramic tile store. Must have experience in customer service and sales. Computer literate. Part-time and full-time, including Saturdays. Please fax resume to (734) 424–1106.

ANN ARBOR OBSERVER
Advertising Representative. We're looking for a bright, creative, organized person with exceptional communication and people skills. If you are a professional, energetic self-starter with sales experience, we'd like to talk with you about this opportunity. Send resume and letter of interest to: P. Garcia, Ann Arbor Observer, 201 Catherine, Ann Arbor, MI 48104.

ANN ARBOR OBSERVER
Circulation Assistant
The Ann Arbor Observer is looking for an organized person with strong computer skills, meticulous attention to detail, and excellent telephone manner. Database and marketing skills a plus for this 30-hour per week job. Send resume and letter of interest to L. Paxton, Ann Arbor Observer, 201 Catherine, Ann Arbor 48104.

Entertainment

The Classifieds deadline for the January issue is December 10.

★ WEDDING/PARTY DJ ★
Largest music selection presented with taste, elegance.
Very reasonable rates. 572–9535.

INTRADA
Professional woodwind quintet for weddings, receptions, parties, etc. Classical to popular music. (734) 994–5457.

Live harp music for any occasion. Harp doctorate, U-M. Flute and Harp Duo also available. Call Laurel at 663–9292.

★ STORYTELLER AND DANCER ★
For any occasion. Unique and creative.
Appealing to all ages.
Call Esther, (734) 996-1420.

Make Your Holiday Party Magical & Memorable! (734) 99–MAGIC

LIVE MUSIC
For all occasions. **Espresso** plays great music for dancing and listening. Jazz, Motown, Classic Rock, and more. Call David for tape and song list, 439–2151.

★ HAVE HARP ★ WILL TRAVEL ★
Quality work at reasonable rates
Call Rochelle, (734) 475–1660.

LA CORDA ENSEMBLE
Distinctive string music for a touch of elegance at your wedding, reception, or any festive occasion. String duo, trio, and quartet. Call (734) 459–5296, or visit our website at www.lacorda.com

LIZARD LADY'S REPTILES
The wildlife experience that children love! Birthdays, classes, preschools.
Teress Killeen, (517) 424–5099

♪THE NOSTALGIA DJ♪
1930's–40's–50's original records.
Anniversaries, dances. **662–5253.**

★★ ELEGANT MUSIC FOR CLASSIC OCCASIONS ★★
Rapsodia Ensemble provides exquisite string music for all special events. Reasonable rates. (734) 747–VIOL.

Ann Arbor Federation of Musicians—Your best source for live music. Free referrals or list of professional musicians and groups. 668–8041.

Magic Telegrams for Birthdays & Anniversaries! (734) 99–MAGIC

TERRABELLA TRIO
Elegant music featuring flute, violin, and cello. Call (734) 996–0303.

"Kids Love Our Birthday Magic!"
Reasonable Prices–Priceless Fun!
A2 MAGIC (734) 99–MAGIC

Classical/Flamenco Guitar—Romantic or energetic music for your event. (734) 769–1574.

"LET US MERRY BE . . ."
Professional lute player/singer makes your wedding or other occasion a special event with lute music and lute songs of the Renaissance. Ulrike Goldstein, (734) 741–8397.

★★ THE FLUTE-HARP DUO ★★
Music for all occasions
UM graduates with 20 years' experience
CD *"Serenity"* available
Rochelle 475.1660 or Nancy 994.5457

Lessons & Workshops

The Classifieds deadline for the January issue is December 10.

VOICE • PIANO
All Ages • All Levels Instruction
Gini Robison, (734) 487–2691.

Meditation for stress management, health, and personal enrichment. Learn to respond to life's events with greater calmness and clarity. Experienced teacher for individual consultations, classes, and business seminars. *Inroads Meditation Instruction,* Sandra Finkel, M.P.H., (734) 769–0053, smfinkel@umich.edu.

★★★ Brazilian Portuguese ★★★
For business or travel.
Rapid, all levels.
485–3842

BEGINNING AFRO-CUBAN HAND DRUMMING—Classes meet Tuesdays, 7–8:15 p.m. **Drums provided.** No experience necessary. $36/month. New sessions begin the first Tuesday of each month. Chris Gates, 327–1892.

SUZUKI GUITAR
Four-year-olds to adults.
Liz Mikols, 994–5732.

THE YEAR 2000 IS UPON US—LET'S GET ORGANIZED! Can't get started? Need someone to work with you to organize your home or office? Effective. Efficient. Andrea Anbender, 669–6019.

NATURAL SCIENCE
Programs and Field Trips.
Lisa Lava-Kellar, 663–9661.

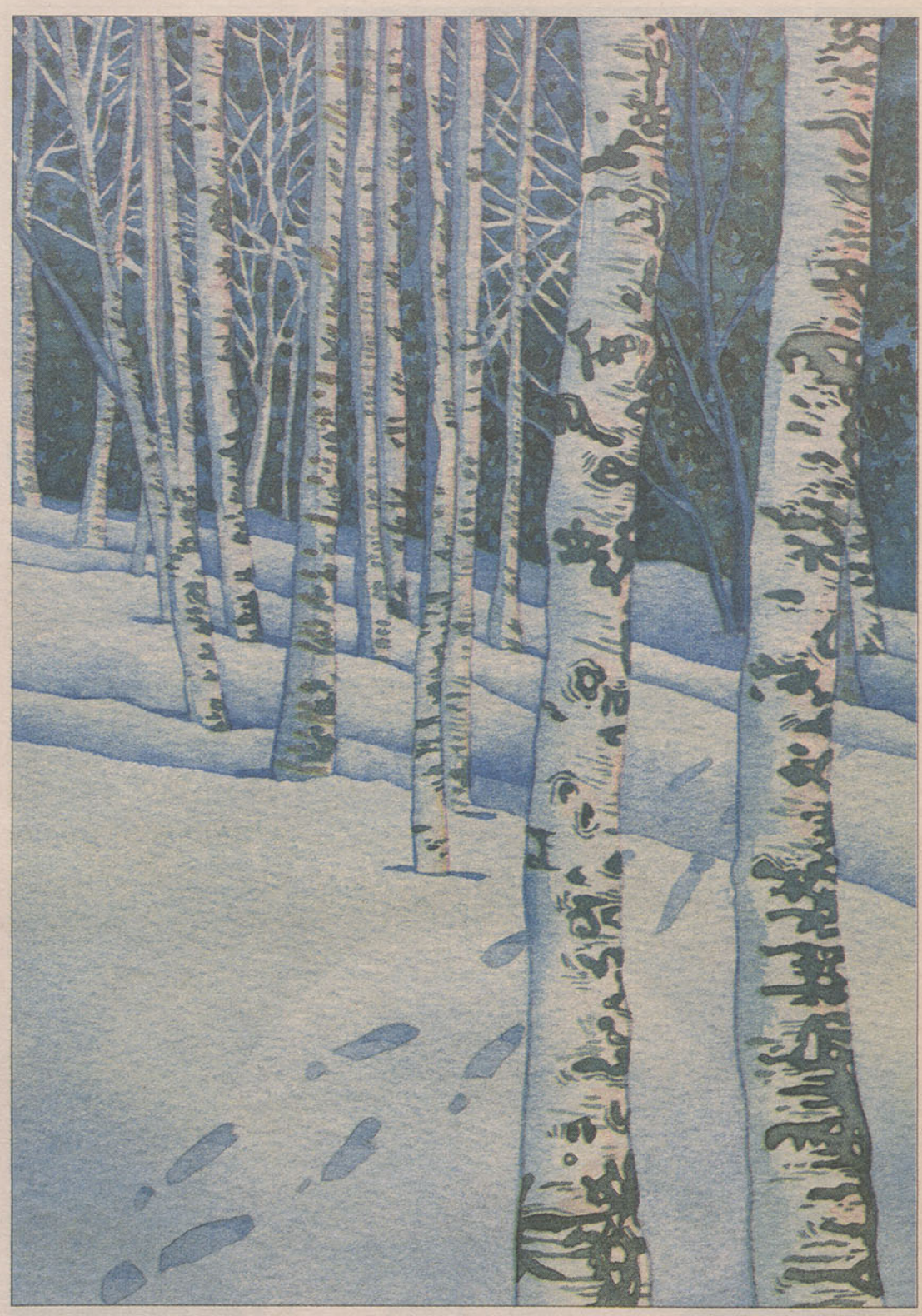
Music Lessons for Music Lovers. Teach voice, flute, and piano to all ages. Experienced with master's degree. Flexible times and reasonable rates. Call Debbie, (734) 769–5752.

★ SPANISH TUTOR ★
Native speaker. $18/hr. 741–4943.

★★★ ACCENT REDUCTION ★★★
For foreign-born professionals.
Rapid method.
485–3842

PIANO LESSONS
ALL AGES, ALL LEVELS
Prof. musician on Steinway grand in west-side home. U-M School of Music grad. Reasonable fee and flexible arrangements.
Marian Stolar, 761–7384.

MUSIC LESSONS
Learn piano and/or guitar from an experienced professional. All styles, specializing in boogie, blues, and jazz. Comfortable west-side studio, all ages, beginners welcome. Al Hill, 668–6228.



YOURIST POTTERY DESIGN
Small Group Lessons
Pottery • Wheels • Tools
Tues.–Sat., 11–6. 722 Packard. 662–4914.

Voice Lessons for Non-Singers and Singers—Experienced teacher, personal expression focus, all levels—jazz, folk, musicals, popular. Kathleen Moore, performing vocalist and certified music therapist, 668–8146.

★ PIANO LESSONS ★
MM New England Conservatory, Boston College teaching background.
Reasonable fee/all levels. 327–0977.

★★ MANDARIN CHINESE ★★
Native speaker with college teaching background. Group or private lessons.
332–1108.

ANN ARBOR AREA PIANO TEACHERS GUILD for referrals to qualified, professional piano teachers.
All levels and ages, 665–5346.

Suffering from College Essay Angst?
Experienced English teacher wants to help you write the best essay you can. Consultation or Editing.
Call 327–1088; ask for Paige.

For Sale

I SPY CONTEST
Can you identify the glimpse of Ann Arbor in the photo on p. 151? If you can, you could win a copy of the latest edition of *Historic Buildings: Ann Arbor, Michigan.* One winner will be drawn from all correct entries received by noon, December 10. No phone entries, please. Send your answer to: I Spy, Ann Arbor Observer, 201 Catherine, AA 48104. Fax: 769–3375; E-mail: penny@aaobserver.com (include address and phone number).

'95 Pontiac Grand Prix SE, 4-door, green metallic, V6, power windows/locks, tilt, A/C, Am/Fm cassette, no rust! 68,700 miles, 2 sets of tires. $8,500. Call (734) 327–0417.

FOR SALE: Weeklong timeshare at Long Boat Bay Club in beautiful Long Boat, Florida. Renting and exchanging options available through Interval International. Week 49 every other year, but can swap for week of your choice anywhere in the world. Asking $6,500. Call (734) 971–1702 (home), or (734) 973–0100 (work) and ask for Marti Alden.

'96 Mercury Mystique GS, 4-door sedan, auto, 55K, loaded. $9,050. (734) 769–6683.

Services

The Classifieds deadline for the January issue is December 10.

★ Construction Debris—Recycled ★
Roofing, lumber, carpeting, and misc.
TRC HAULING, 665–6895

CLASSIFIEDS

ACCURATE PSYCHIC
Answers your questions from practical/personal to metaphysical. Romance, finance, past lives, karmic lessons; messages from guides, angels, departed loved ones. Individuals, groups, parties, and events by appointment. Enlightening, empowering readings! Call Nanci Rose Gerler, **Crystal Clear Expressions,** (734) 996–8799.

BUSINESS

★ Creative Resumes That Work ★
PDS, (734) 913–8078.

The Mac Guy
Macintosh computer consulting: Internet, networking, RAM upgrades, audio/video, MIDI, instruction, web, multimedia. Call for free buying advice. Sliding scale for nonprofits. (810) 231–0677.

Don't rake all those leaves yourself! Call **CD YARD CARE** for a complete fall yard cleanup, hauling, and snow removal. **(734) 481–1495.**

Arbor Writing Company
Writing and editing, technical writing, brochures, newsletters. 663–5616.

Need help with Macs? Mac setup, training, troubleshooting, networking, web design. Learn to use your computer better. Mac expert, 10+ years of experience. (734) 769–8447.

HEALTH

Vitamins for Sale. Web address: www.sky-owens1949@yahoo.com

★★ HIV/AIDS Resource Center ★★
". . . testing, education, and care."
(800) 578–2300

GAY MEN'S THERAPY GROUP
Contact Robert Dargel, MSW, ACSW, at (734) 975–1880. Insurance okay.

Grey Sheet Food Plan
Hope for Food Addicts
Have you failed at dieting? We are experiencing long-term relief—a 12-step group which meets at Maple Health Building in Ann Arbor (lower level), corner of N. Maple and Dexter Ave. Saturdays, 9 a.m.

Affordable, therapeutic massage—Sliding scale. $35–$20. Tracy, (734) 647–3479 or (734) 994–5944.

WOMEN'S THERAPY GROUP
Spiritual/psychological group forming. Free intro. appt. 973–0299.

Adult males sexually abused as children. Indiv. and grp. therapy, sliding scale. Call Rick Reinsmith, MA, LLP at 677–3233 or Ian MacGregor, ACSW at 973–2750.

Thinking of Water Purification?
Buy the best system available: **EQUINOX.** Approved by *Good Housekeeping* and NSF. Various sizes and prices. **332–9047.**

- SANDRA SHEARS -
Spiritual Channel, Healer, & Counselor
(734) 663–6440

*** WOW * Therapeutic Massage**
$25/hr. Ann Arbor. Institute of Massage Therapy Student Clinic, 677–4430. Call today for your appointment!

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE HEALING & TREATMENT, Doug Jackson CS, (734) 426–4452.

Vitamins for Sale, Alan_1859@hotmail.com

HEALING BODY, HEART, AND MIND—Holistic approach to rediscovering wholeness. Looks at how you manifest your negative emotions and habit patterns, giving concrete methods for changing them by using bodily postures and breath. Cynthia Gormley, 663–3842.

29 PEOPLE WANTED to get paid $$$ to lose up to 30 lbs. in the next 30 days. Natural, guaranteed. Call (800) 245–7718.

HOME

One woman interior painting. Quality work. Reasonable rates. Call 480–2258.

Fall Cleanup—Lawn prep & seeding, gutter cleaning, etc. Call Brian, (734) 428–1247.

Matt Snider – Custom Carpentry
Home Remodeling • Small Projects
Finish • Rough • Basements • 971–5235

CRITTER CARE
Pet Care When You Can't Be There
Kristina Taylor
(734) 747–8259

Nails by Georgia Theodore
Former manicurist @ Jacobson's 23 years
Taking appointments @ home.
Wed., Thurs., Fri. 9:00–4:30. 663–6673.

Snow Removal—seasonal, vacation service. I use blowers only. For residential needs and small parking lots. (734) 428–1247.

★ Household Debris—Recycled ★
Appliances, furniture, brush, and misc.
TRC HAULING, 665–6895.

★ Winter Slipcover Sale ★
Michigan's Mom, (734) 913–8131, Ramona.

Abandon your search and let's not be sexist—call **Pete the Dustman** for your housecleaning chores. Bonded and insured. 761–7565.

INTERIOR/EXTERIOR PAINTING
Deck maintenance. References. Call Louis, (734) 717–7402 or E-mail meza@umich.edu

Professional Handyman—Is something broken or not working right? Does it bother you? Call Rob, 332–9047. Since 1995.

LANDSCAPING
Professional gardening services. Lawn maintenance. 12 years' experience.
Historical Gardens, 668–3395.

HANDYMAN HOME SERVICES.
Roof to foundation repair, maintenance, and improvement. Roofing, tree removal, power washing, plumbing, etc. 994–4236.

PHOTOGRAPHY

WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHY
Professional photographer working in candid documentary style. You keep the film.
Gregory Fox Photography,
(734) 663–0655.

WEDDINGS ★ EVENTS ★ PORTRAITS
Sensitive, natural, exciting images by one of Ann Arbor's favorite photographers. See our website at www.patrickadams.com or call Patrick Adams at 663–8254.

★ WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHY ★
Candid, natural wedding photography by an experienced professional. Individualized services to meet your specific needs. No rigid "packages." Natural light/studio portraiture.
995–0760 David Koether 995–0760

★ WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHY ★
Experienced professional; personal service and reasonable rates. You own and keep the negatives! For information:
Jim Kruz, 668–6988

WEDDINGS ★ EVENTS
PORTRAITS ★ BAR MITZVAHS
Classic family portraiture and/or candid storytelling style. Color/b&w. Anne Keesor Photography, (734) 995–9668.

Wanted

Old Oriental rugs. Navajo, tapestries. Any size. Any condition. (734) 769–8555 or (734) 662–0805.

Male or female models for Lifecast. Weightlifter build, $50–$75 per hour. (313) 747–6307.

New Internet Publisher
seeks lit fic MSS for publication on the web. Send complete MS and SASE to: Barking Man Books, 2702 Lillian Rd., Ann Arbor 48104–5300.

Volunteers Needed! The Salvation Army needs volunteers to assist low-income families in meeting self-sufficiency goals. Call 668–8353.

In exchange for a room, Ann Baker PhD will work flexible hours. (734) 480–8850, mouse@lamar.colostate.edu

JANUARY DEADLINE
DECEMBER 10

Observer Classifieds/Personals Form

Mail, fax, or bring form to: Ann Arbor Observer Classifieds, 201 Catherine, Ann Arbor, MI 48104
Fax: (734) 769-3375, or e-mail: classifieds@arborweb.com
Please include payment of check, cash, Visa or MC.

REACH OVER
122,000 READERS

ANN ARBOR OBSERVER CLASSIFIEDS—

RUN AD IN:

JAN.	FEB.	MAR.
APR.	MAY	JUNE
JULY	AUG.	SEP.
OCT.	NOV.	DEC.

NUMBER OF LINES _____
X $7.00 PER LINE _____
X # OF MONTHS _____
TOTAL $ _____

CHECK APPROPRIATE CLASSIFIEDS CATEGORY

❑ WANTED ❑ FOR SALE
❑ ENTERTAINMENT
❑ LESSONS & WORKSHOPS
❑ SERVICES– PHOTOGRAPHY
❑ SERVICES BUSINESS
❑ SERVICES– HOME
❑ SERVICES– HEALTH
❑ SERVICES– GENERAL
❑ EMPLOYMENT

REAL ESTATE GUIDE CLASSIFIEDS—

❑ ANN ARBOR ❑ COMMERCIAL
❑ CONDOS ❑ MOBILE HOMES
❑ OFFICE SPACE ❑ RENTALS
❑ PROPERTY FOR SALE
❑ SUBURBAN/ COUNTRY HOMES
❑ VACATION RENTALS
❑ VACANT LAND
❑ REAL ESTATE WANTED

PERSONALS— (See ad on page 134 for detailed information about responding to a personal ad.)
All Classified and Personal Ads will automatically appear on our Web page, www.arborweb.com

CHECK APPROPRIATE PERSONALS CATEGORY

❑ Women Seeking Men ❑ Women Seeking Women ❑ Friendships
❑ Men Seeking Women ❑ Men Seeking Men ❑ General Personals

FIRST FOUR LINES **FREE**

NUMBER OF ADDITIONAL LINES _____
X $7.00 PER LINE _____
TOTAL $ _____

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ ZIP _____
PHONE _____
EMAIL _____

❑ PLEASE CHARGE MY: ❑ VISA ❑ MASTERCARD ❑ CHECK ENCLOSED
ACCOUNT NUMBER _____
EXP. DATE _____
SIGNATURE _____

RATES & GUIDELINES FOR CLASSIFIEDS AND PERSONALS

- Each letter, punctuation mark, and word space counts as a box. Capital letters use two boxes.
- Average 36 characters per line.
- Use only standard abbreviations.
- Move word to the next line if it does not fit completely at the end of a line.
- Ads will run in the next open issue.

- **For Classifieds Only—**
- $7.00 per line, or fraction of a line, per insertion. 2 line minimum.

- **For Personals Only—**
- All ads are assigned a single number for Personal Call and written responses.
- An instruction sheet for Personal Call will be mailed to the advertiser.
- Written responses will be forwarded to the advertiser up to one year after the ad appears in print.

- Ads must be submitted in writing by the deadline. **No phone calls please.**
- **First four lines are free** for singles seeking relationship in the personals, $7.00 each additional line. The following exceptions will be charged **full price** of $7.00 per line:
  - Ads requesting written responses.
  - Ads placed by phone.
  - Businesses and organizations.

| | | |

SERVICES

BUSINESS

Scientext
Publication Management and Editorial Services.
Specializing in scientific and technical publishing.
734-475-7459

Food Service

HAVE YOUR OWN
PERSONAL CHEF
FREE CONSULTATION
734.572.4704

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DAVID ZINN
Illustration & Design
"bright ideas from a slightly bent mind" - *Ann Arbor News*
Phone: 769-1890 Fax: 769-4348

HEALTH & WELLNESS

ROLFING®
KHITA AUSTIN
LELAND AUSTIN
Certified Rolfers
Ann Arbor *734. 741. 0038*

Rolf Method of Structural Integration
Jim Arkison
(734) 944-5544
Serving Ann Arbor since 1991.

Psychotherapy and Mental Health

BLACKBURN & GROB COUNSELING ASSOCIATES
Individual, Couple and Group Counseling & Psychotherapy
(734) 994-3067

Health and Wellness (continued)

BAREFOOT DOCTORS APOTHECARY
Take Care of Yourself and Those You Love
Chinese Herbal Formulas, Bulk Herbs
Supplements, Books, Supplies & More
Holiday Sale on Selected Tea & Tea Supplies
Yixing Teapots-limited supply
111 E. Ann St., Ann Arbor - 734-761-4823
www.barefootdoctors.com/apoth.html

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Day Spa Packages
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Gift Certificates
www.bellanina.com
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409 North Fourth Avenue
In the Historic Kerrytown District

GREY WOLF COUNSELING
ROBERT J. HEJNA, MSW, ACSW
Support for Individuals and Couples on Paths of Empowerment
Adults • Adolescent Specialist
Appointments
734-677-4324 • Ann Arbor

Cognitive-Behavioral & Brief Treatment Approaches For Permanent Change
Rich Higinbotham, M.S.W., C.S.W.
Individual, Couple & Family Psychotherapy
depression and anxiety • stress
self esteem issues • chronic illness
career/life changes • relationships
anger management • trauma, grief and loss
Free initial consultation
Hours by appointment 741.1989
Pager 651.4944

DREAD GETTING OLDER?
UNHAPPY WITH YOUR JOB?
FIGHTING WITH THE FAMILY?
DRINKING TOO MUCH?
Maybe We Can Help.
Individual & Family Counseling
• Personal Growth Groups
• Support Groups
• House Calls
T.J. FOURNIER
Ph.D., CSW
Licensed-Certified
621 N. Fourth Ave.
995-5269

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Mary K. Anderson, Ph.D.
Licensed Psychologist
• Lesbian/Gay Issues • Anxiety & Depression
• Trauma • Supervision
• Couples • Grief
410 E. William ▼ 734.327.5934

Michigan Center for Cosmetic Surgery
Robert H. Burke, M.D., F.A.C.S.
Inquire about our newest procedures:
- *Telangitron-broken blood vessels*
- *Dermalogen-Collagen alternative*
- *Power Peel-micordermabrasion*

For Complimentary Consultation Call 971-0262

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Comprehensive Classes in
T'AI CHI CH'UAN
CHI KUNG
SELF-ACUPRESSURE
MEDITATION
Master Wasentha Young
— *30 years experience* —
1945 Pauline Blvd. • Suite B • Ann Arbor
(west of Stadium Blvd.)
Registration & Info: (734) 741-0695

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"Where makeup is an art...
...and skincare is a science."
663-9344
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European Facials • Waxing-Makeup
Men's and Teenage Treatment
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Kerrytown

Elizabeth Salliotte
Esthetician

Eastover Center for Therapeutic Massage and Skin Care

- European Facials
- Massage Therapy
- Spa Treatments
- Reflexology
- Shiatsu
- Sports Massage

WE USE dermalogica PROFESSIONALLY and we proudly recommend it.
We provide a holistic center with professional staff and quality products.
For an appointment, call 994-0293

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Unique Physique
Sarah Casello
ACE Certified
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HEALTHY LIFESTYLES BEGIN AT HOME
ALL PROGRAMS OVERSEEN BY
MICHAEL W. KARR, M.S.
CERTIFIED PERSONAL TRAINERS
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CALL FOR DETAILS
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PILATES
Effective, Intelligent Body Conditioning
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GYMS TO YOU
Exercise in the convenience of your own home.
Lowest rates in town!
Personalized Exercise & Diet Programs
Equipment/Weights provided * References available
Elizabeth W. Peter 734-994-1112
Certified Personal Trainer, A.F.A.A.

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HEAVENLY HANDS
734 971-6065
Making Your House Heaven to Come Home to!
FULL-SERVICE RESIDENTIAL CLEANING SERVICES
Insured • Bonded • Supervised
Weekly • Biweekly • Monthly
Special Occasions • Free Estimates
SATISFACTION GUARANTEED!

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D & J FLOORS
Over 25 Years Experience
Residential and Commercial
FREE ESTIMATES
Installation • Sanding • Finishing
Waxing • Polishing • Cleaning slate, vinyl, quarry and terrazzo tiles
New and old wood floors
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SERVICES

Building and Remodeling (continued)

PILON CONSTRUCTION
High Quality Residential Remodeling & Additions
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Design Services Available

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Hardwood Floors
Residential and Commercial
Free Estimates
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Ann Arbor

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Garages Decks
Basements
AA Improvements Building Co.

Building and Remodeling (continued)

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Custom Building
Interior Remodeling
We Specialize in
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Kitchens & Bathrooms
KAS CONSTRUCTION
Licensed • Fully Insured
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ceramic tile • custom trim
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25 Years Experience
SPECIALIST IN RESTORING OLDER HOMES
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Maulbetsch Excavating
Road & Driveway Construction
Bulldozing & Grading • Sand, Gravel & Topsoil • Drain Field & Testholes and Basement Digging
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DAN DEL ZOPPO ELECTRIC
ANN ARBOR 734/930-1630 MICHIGAN
LICENSED & INSURED
FOR THE BEST IN ELECTRICAL SERVICE

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Murals, Stencils, Marbleizing,
Wood Graining, Rag Rolling, Sponging,
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Wallpaper Stripping
Meticulous • 19 years experience
Free estimates • References
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Bratton Painting & Decorating
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Wallpaper Removal
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Lic./Ins.

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Firewood
Lot Clearing
Tree Trimming & Removal
Stump Removal

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Need Something Assembled?
Furniture, BBQ's, Lawn/Garden, Tools, Toys, Shelves, Blinds, Shades, Curtain Rods.
call "THE ASSEMBLY GUY" LLC
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Licensed & Insured Builder
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THE BEST OF ANN ARBOR
$600 value
Only $32
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You can have what you want.
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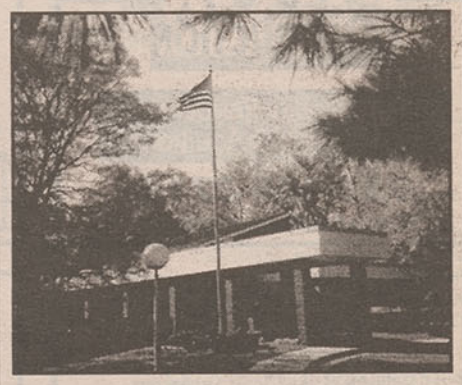

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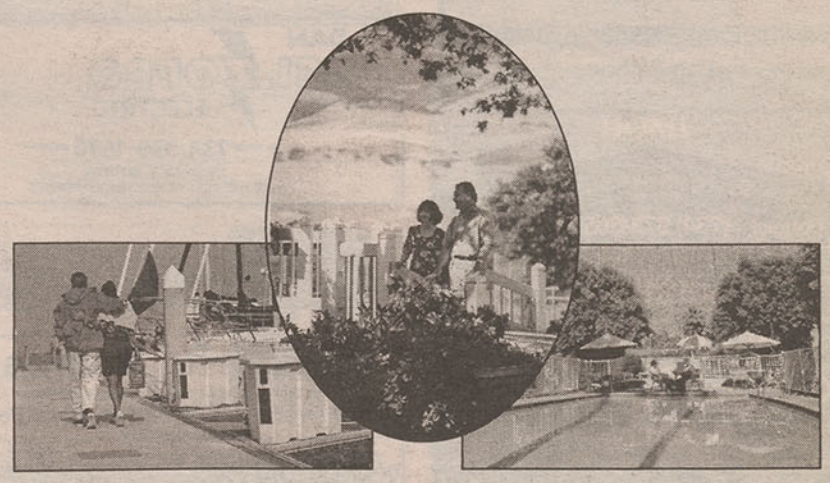

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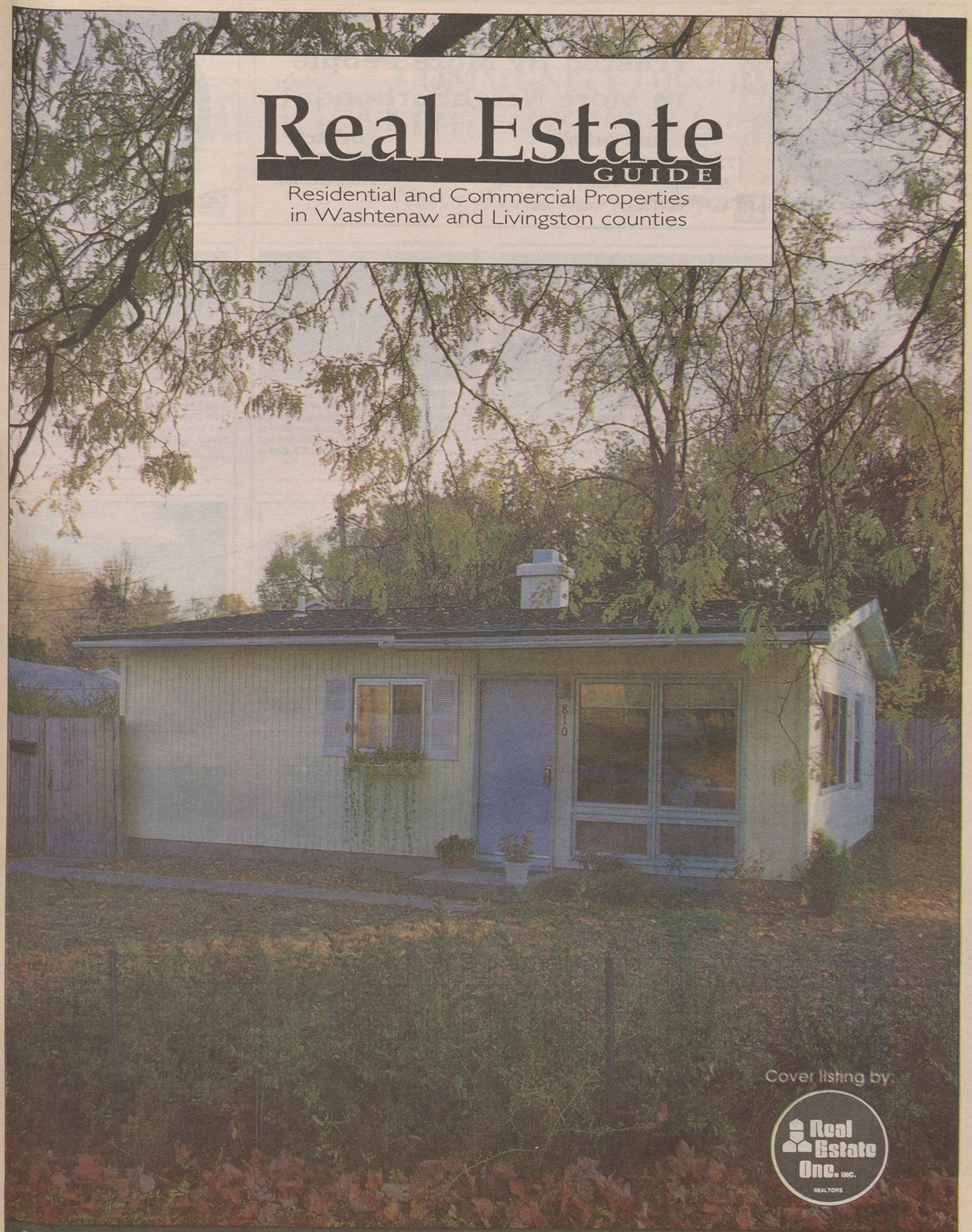
Real Estate GUIDE

Residential and Commercial Properties
in Washtenaw and Livingston counties



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Ann Arbor Observer December 1999 Volume 7 Number 7

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LOHR LAKE VILLAGE. Beautiful 4-bedroom, 2½-bath colonial with attached garage. 3,100 sq. ft. plus 1,100 in basement. Large master bedroom suite with 2 walk-in closets. Professionally landscaped. Many upgrades. Saline schools. Premium lot. $409,900. **GREG JOHNSON, (800) 404–3953 or 662–8600.** (LA–997208)

NORTHEAST 4-bedroom, 2½-bath colonial on one of the largest lots in Orchard Hills. Hardwood floors, new roof, well-maintained finished basement, attached 2-car garage. Walking distance to schools and Thurston nature center. $233,900. **NANCY HARRISON, 994–0124 or 662–8600.** (GE–997256)

DON'T WAIT TILL SPRING to buy, when you can have the perfect home right now at a fair price. Three-bedroom, 1½-bath ranch with large great room with cathedral ceiling, gas fireplace, air conditioning, first-floor laundry, 2-car garage, and more. Well kept for only $139,900. **SUZANNE BETZ, 973–6994 or 662–8600.** (WI–997243)

GREAT COUNTRY living in Dexter. Spectacular 2-story, 4 bedrooms, 3½ baths, formal dining, study, finished walkout, deck, and lots more on 1.62 scenic acres. $379,900. **TOM & SUE DEFORD, 662–0620 or 662–8600.** (ST–997380)

SPEND THE HOLIDAYS in your new home at the Waterways. Quality built Wexford ranch home is an amazing value. 5,400 sq. ft. finished living space for $429,900. Simple elegance at its best. **AMY GRIFFITH, 547–6869 or 662–8600.** (WA–995633)

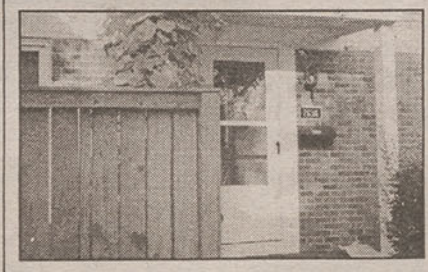
HURON CHASE CONDO, rare offering on lot #1. Three bedrooms, 3½ baths, main floor master suite overlooking pond and fountain. 2,157 sq. ft. plus 545 on lower level. $439,900. **TOM & SUE DEFORD, 662–0620 or 662–8600.** (BO–997357)

EXECUTIVE living overlooking pond. Amenities in this contemporary colonial: master suite plus 3 bedrooms, marble fireplace, large brick patio with hot tub, wraparound deck, new landscaping, and much more. Convenient location. Ready to move in. Saline schools. $436,000. **DANIEL MLADIN, 662–8600 ext. 352.** (SU–997067)

NESTLED on a large lot with views of Barton Pond and Huron River. Tastefully done addition adds library, study, or extra bedroom. $535,000. **BETH VERMETT, 487–3350 or 662–8600.** (HU–996875)

ARBOR POINTE sub beauty can be yours in 30 days. New construction, 4 bedrooms, 2½ baths, lots of upgrades, over 2,150 sq. ft. Friendly new neighborhood close to everything $259,500. **GAIL SINELLI, 426–8060 or 662–8600.** (CE–996709)

AND THE LIVING IN EASY in Ann Arbor—Two-bedroom condo with quiet location, but near bus and shopping. $94,900. **MARY MURTON, 971–1552 or 662–8600.** (IN–996576)



A HONEY FOR THE MONEY in popular Ann Arbor location at Georgetown. Nice 2-bedroom condo with sunny private location. $93,000. **MARY MURTON, 971–1552 or 662–8600.** (FE–997401)

WHY RENT IN ANN ARBOR? When you can own this comfy, cozy 1-bedroom condo that is well located near bus and shopping. Has great little pool and lovely setting. $57,000. **MARY MURTON, 971–1552 or 662–8600.** (PA–997378)

DELIGHTFUL open and spacious floor plan. Four bedrooms, 3½ baths on 5 acres with trees. Close to US-23 and I-94. Large deck and gazebo for entertaining. Separate kitchen, heating, fireplace, and entrance on lower level. $489,000. **DOT OWEN, 994–4578 or 662–8600.** (WA–997126)

TRULY A DOLL HOUSE! Newer windows provide lots of light in this delightful home. Updated bath, kitchen, formal dining space, private fenced backyard and best of all, the great location—only minutes to U-M, hospitals, downtown by bus, bike, or walk. **GAIL SINELLI, 426–8060 or 662–8600.** (TA–0)

PRISTINE BEAUTY in a charming colonial, over one acre in wonderful sub. Wooded lot, 20x16 deck, 3 bedrooms with the possibility of a 4th. Brick fireplace in great room. Only $174,500. **DEBBY COMBS, 1-800-717-8585.** (9135–H)

LOW UTILITY bills are what you'll have with this lovely, energy efficient home on over 9 acres. New carpeting and fresh paint. Pond, 24 x 64 horse barn. Dexter schools. $285,900. **CAROL NAVARRE, 426–4466.** (11870–H)

Real Estate GUIDE

Residential and Commercial Properties in Washtenaw and Livingston Counties

On the Cover: Location says it all with this charming Florida-style home only minutes from U-M, hospitals, or downtown. Open floor plan with newer roof, bath, and kitchen area. Cathedral ceilings give a feeling of openness and space. Huge fenced backyard for the avid gardener. $110,000. Call Gail Sinelli for more information. 426–8060 or 662–8600.
Cover photo by J. Adrian Wylie.

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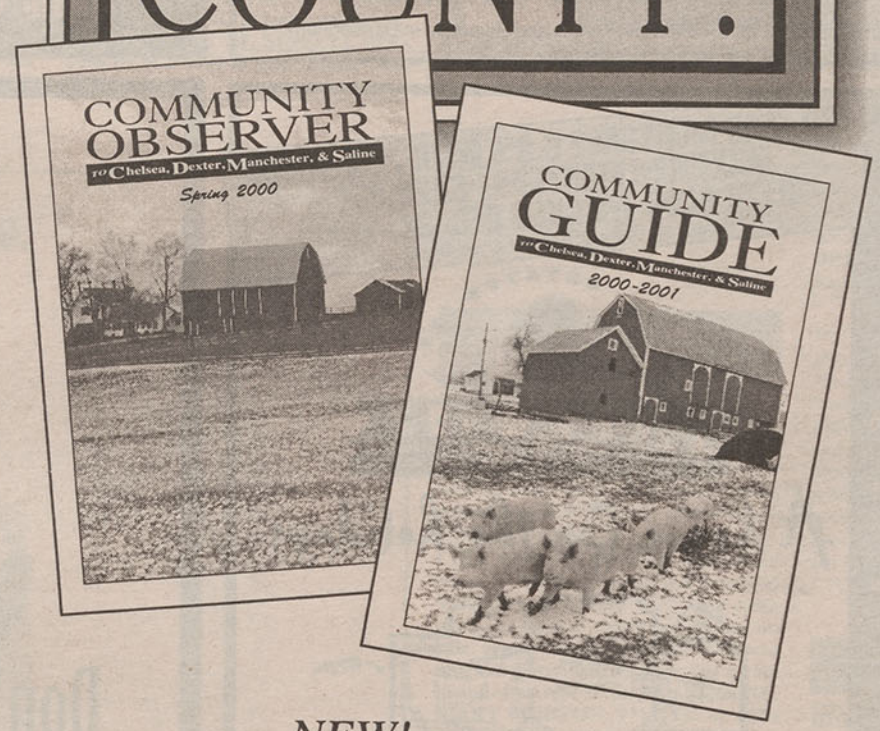

NEW!

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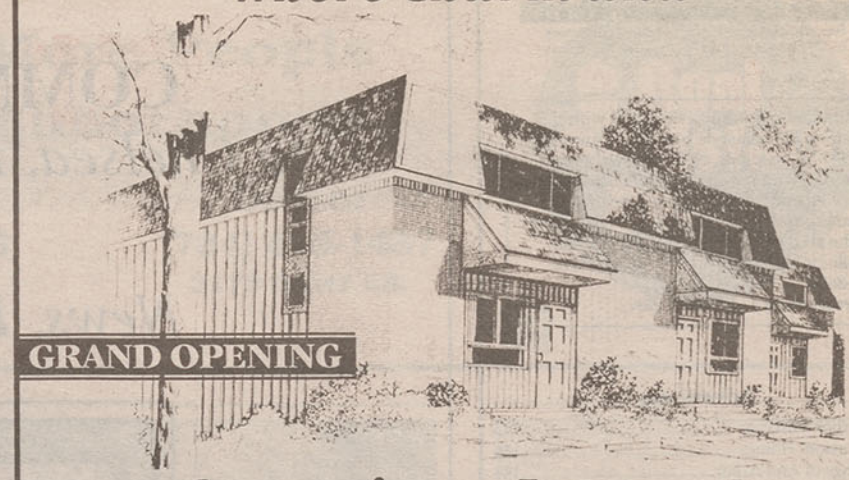

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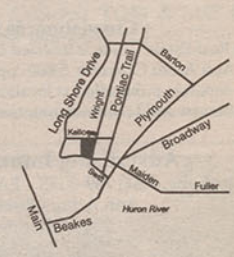

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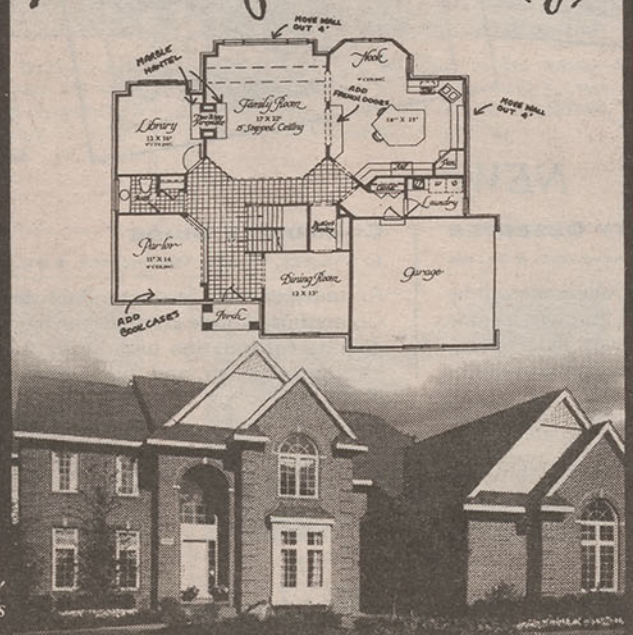

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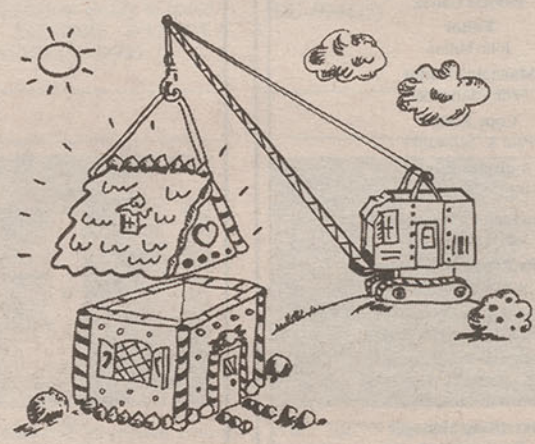

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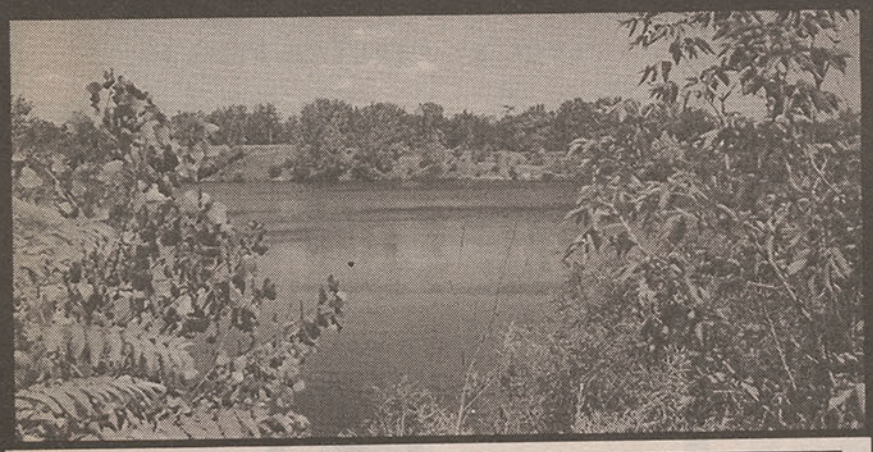

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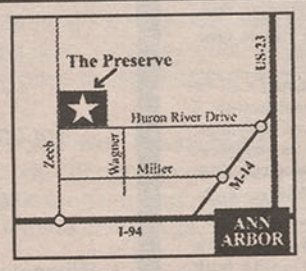

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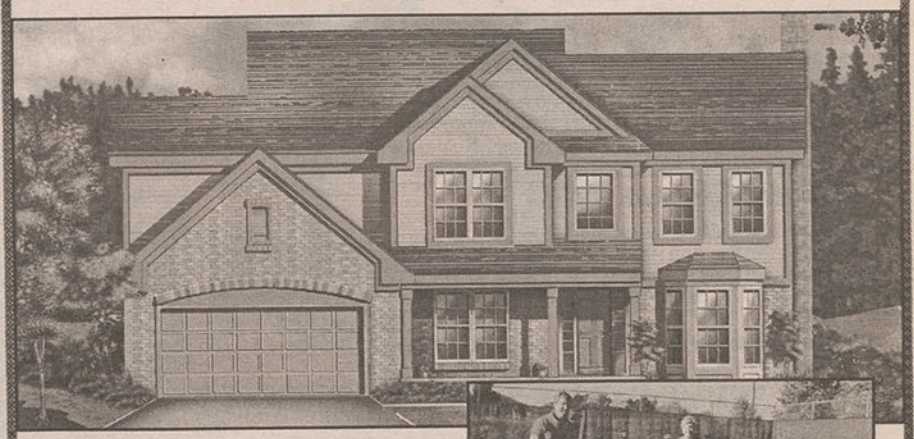

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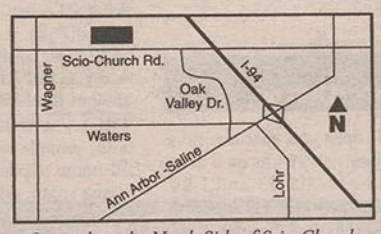

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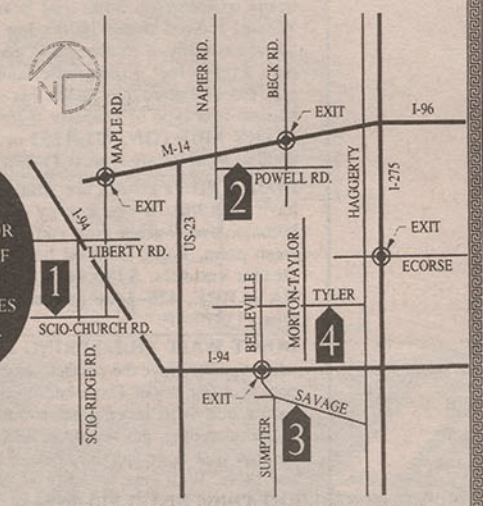

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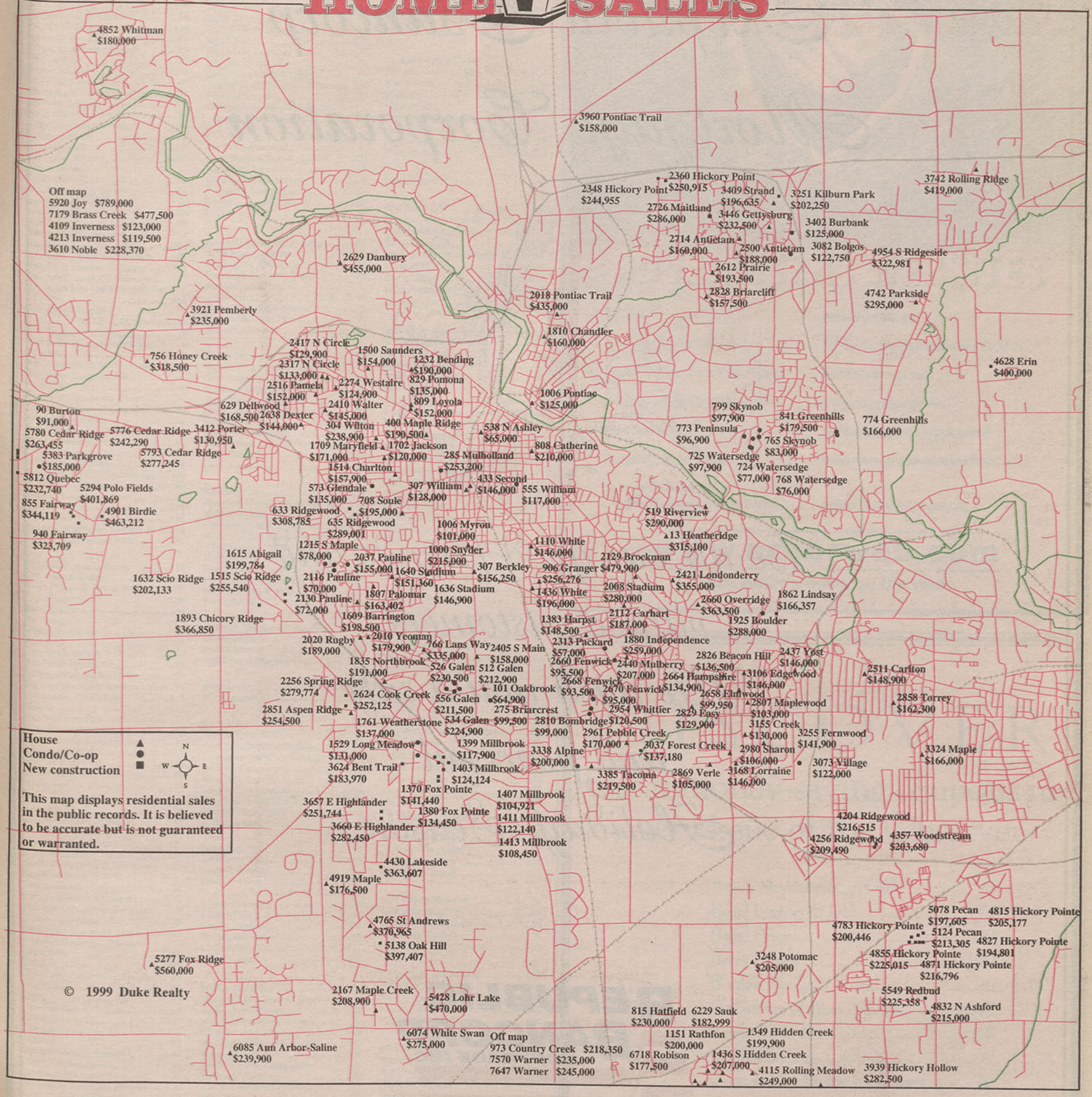
OCTOBER 1999

HOME SALES



A total of 192 homes sold in October, better than even with this time last year. New home sales dropped slightly, to fifty-one, but resales more than picked up the slack.

The median home price (half cost more, half cost less) is up a hefty 8 percent so far this year—evidence of a strong market. But home prices are rising inconsistently, favoring some much more than others. A cross section of single-family home prices (mostly resales, no condos or co-ops) finds that the biggest winners are the newest megahomes. (See "Fancy Prices," Up Front, p. 11.) Prices for homes over 3,500 square feet are up a huge 17 percent over their 1998 counterparts. The increase is exaggerated by resales of pricey homes of recent vintage, but large older homes also are doing well. Megahomes built before 1994 are up a healthy 15 percent, and those built before 1990 are up 13 percent.

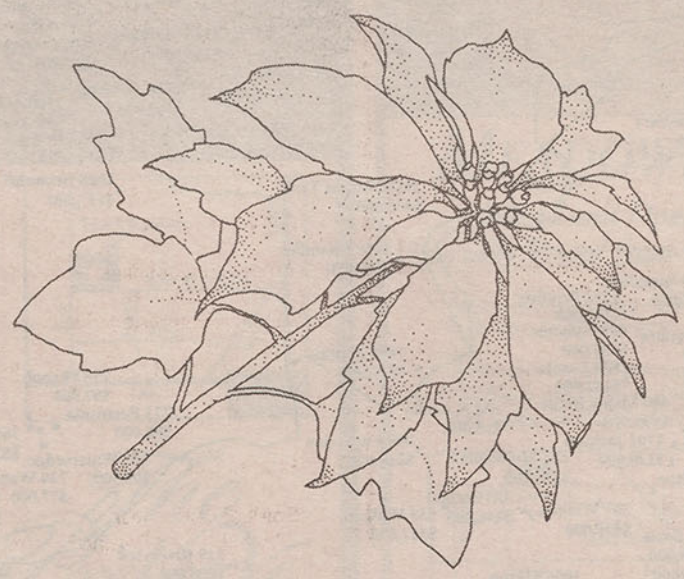
Resales in the 1,750- to 2,000-square-foot range rose 9 percent. Contrary to the megahomes' pattern, the older homes in this group are selling for a slight premium: the increase is actually slightly greater (10 percent) when sales of homes built since 1994 are excluded. At the other extreme, the median price of homes between 1,500 and 1,750 square feet is up just 2 percent. Homes between 1,250 and 1,500 and those between 2,750 and 3,000 square feet did little better, appreciating only 3 percent.

Rounding out the breakdown, homes measuring 3,000–3,500 and 2,000–2,250 square feet rose 8 percent, homes at 2,250–2,500 and 1,000–1,250 square feet gained 7 percent, and homes from 2,500 to 2,750 square feet went up 5 percent in price.

The smallest homes are selling fastest. Homes of 1,000–1,250 square feet have been averaging just thirty-five days on the market. The typical megahome takes three times as long to find a buyer.

—Kevin Duke

Republic Bancorp Mortgage Corporation



To all our good friends and valued customers,

We wish you a safe and peaceful Holiday Season.

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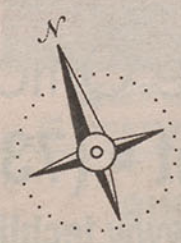

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BACK PAGE

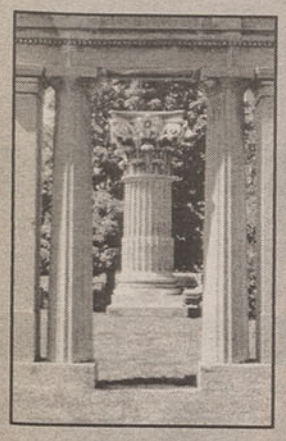
I SPY

by Sally Bjork

Stunning rail
In iron, wrought
Leads the way
To items, bought
For refined
Interior design

To enter this month's contest, use the photo and riddle to find the spot shown, and send your entry to the address below.

November's stone columns (below) were rescued from imminent destruction in 1930 by Emil Lorch, then dean of the U-M School of Architecture. The passageway in the foreground once graced the oldest stone building in Detroit: the Bank of Michigan, built in 1836 on the corner of Jefferson and Griswold. Pictured between the passageway's Doric columns are the base and capital of an elaborate Corinthian column brought here from the home office of the Mutual Benefit Life Insurance Company in Newark, New Jersey. Today, these columns stand as sculpture, giving homage to architecture that has vanished from our cityscapes. Appropriately, they grace the lawn of Lorch Hall at the corner of Tappan and Monroe.



We had seven correct entries for November's I Spy plus one guess for West Park (which does have columns, but not these). Our winner, drawn at random from the correct entries, is Mary Chaney of Ann Arbor. She'll receive the latest edition of *Historic Buildings: Ann Arbor, Michigan,* by Marjorie Reade and Susan Wineberg.

FAKE AD

by Jay Forstner

Only sixteen people correctly identified the November issue's Fake Ad for Huron Chiropractic Health Partners (p. 107). That low total suggests one of two things: either people routinely skip over ads for chiropractors, or potential chiropractic clients are in such dire need of spinal manipulation that they can't even figure out the simple alphanumeric code we used to disguise the magic word, *arborweb.* Or maybe both.

Aileen Schulze was able to focus long enough to find it. The longtime Fake Adder is taking her gift certificate to Cleveland's Gill & Grill.

To enter the contest for December, identify the Fake Ad by name and page number and let us know at the address below. The winner will receive a $25 gift certificate to any business advertising in this issue.

Send separate entries to Fake Ad or I Spy, Ann Arbor Observer, 201 Catherine, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104. *Fax:* (734) 769–4950. *E-mail:* penny@aaobserver.com. You must include your name, address, and telephone number! All correct entries received in the Observer office by noon on Friday, December 10, are eligible for the December drawings.

Ann Arbor Observer

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Ann Arbor Observer

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EVENTS AT A GLANCE

The Tempest

Charlotte's Web

Angels in America

December theater events include a town-and-gown cast of local luminaries performing Shakespeare's last and arguably most beautiful play, *The Tempest,* December 9–12, and the Ann Arbor Civic Theater offering Tony Kushner's monumental drama centered on an HIV-positive man, *Angels in America,* December 2–5 & 9–12. For kids, Wild Swan Theater performs an adaptation of E. B. White's timeless, touching *Charlotte's Web* December 1–5.

A capsule guide to selected major events in December. See p. 79 for a complete listing of this month's Gallery, Band, and Events reviews. Daily events listings also begin on p. 79.

Pop, Rock, Blues, & Jazz

- Agents of Good Roots (rock 'n' roll), Dec. 1
- Fred Eaglesmith (country-rock), Dec. 2
- The Paperboys (Celtic folk-rock), Dec. 3
- Strangefolk (folk-rock), Dec. 3
- Loudon Wainwright III (singer-songwriter), Dec. 4
- Juliana Hatfield (rock 'n' roll), Dec. 4
- Anson Funderburgh & the Rockets (blues), Dec. 5
- Rick Danko (folk-rock), Dec. 7
- Paul Geremia (blues), Dec. 8
- Rickie Lee Jones (pop-jazz), Dec. 9
- Indigo Girls (folk-rock), Dec. 10
- Steven Curtis Chapman (Christian rock), Dec. 11
- Dick Siegel (singer-songwriter), Dec. 11
- Ricky Skaggs (bluegrass), Dec. 12
- "Ragtime Holiday Bash" with Bolcom & Morris and pianists James Dapogny, Bob Seeley, Terry Parrish, Mike Montgomery, and Waleed Howrani, Dec. 12
- Grey Eye Glances (folk-rock), Dec. 16
- Joel Mabus (folkabilly), Dec. 18
- Over the Rhine (rock 'n' roll), Dec. 19
- George Bedard & the Kingpins, Cub Koda, Billy Kirchen, & Sarah Brown (blues & rockabilly), Dec. 26
- Christine Lavin & friends (singer-songwriters), Dec. 31

Classical & Religious Music

- Ann Arbor Festival of Song, Dec. 3
- Today's Brass Quintet, Dec. 4
- U-M Gospel Chorale, Dec. 4
- University Musical Society *Messiah,* Dec. 4 & 5
- U-M Michigan Chamber Players, Dec. 5
- Arianna String Quartet, Dec. 5
- The Arbor Consort & The Dodworth Saxhorn Band, Dec. 8
- Boys Choir of Harlem, Dec. 9
- Mezzo-soprano Frederica von Stade, Dec. 10
- Brave New Works, Dec. 11
- Ann Arbor Grail Singers, Dec. 11
- Vocal Arts Ensemble, Dec. 11
- Michigan Chamber Brass, Dec. 11
- Kerrytown Concert House "Saxophones Celebrate the Century" concert, Dec. 11
- Dexter Community Band, Dec. 12
- Our Own Thing Chorale, Dec. 12
- American Chorale of Sacred Music, Dec. 12
- EMU Festival of Lessons & Carols, Dec. 12
- Ann Arbor Cantata Singers, Dec. 12
- Donald Bryant Singers, Dec. 12
- Gabrieli Consort & Players, Dec. 14
- Boychoir of Ann Arbor, Dec. 18
- Community *Messiah* Sing, Dec. 19
- St. Andrew's Festival of Lessons & Carols, Dec. 19
- First Presbyterian Festival of Lessons & Carols, Dec. 24
- First Baptist Festival of Lessons & Carols, Dec. 24

Ethnic & Traditional Music

- "Crossroads Ceili" (Irish song & dance), Dec. 29

Theater, Opera, & Dance

- *The Harlem Nutcracker* (University Musical Society), Dec. 1–5
- *Damien* (The Stage Presence, Ltd.), Dec. 2–4
- *Utopia, Limited; or, The Flowers of Progress* (U-M Gilbert & Sullivan Society), Dec. 2–5
- *Not Waving* (Performance Network), Dec. 2–5, 9–12, & 16–19
- *Angels in America* (Ann Arbor Civic Theater), Dec. 2–5 & 9–12
- *Rant and Rage: New Dance from Irish Paintings* (U-M Museum of Art), Dec. 3 & 4
- *Staten Island* (U-M Residential College Players), Dec. 3 & 4
- "Holiday Ballet" (Ypsilanti Area Dancers), Dec. 4 & 5
- *Merrily We Roll Along* (Washtenaw Community College Musical Theater), Dec. 9–12
- *The Tempest* (U-M Theater Department), Dec. 9–12
- *Our Town* (P.T.D. Productions), Dec. 9–12 & 16–18
- *Balm in Gilead* (U-M Musical Theater Program), Dec. 10–13
- *The Nutcracker* (Ann Arbor Ballet Theater), Dec. 17–19
- *The Repo Elf and Other Holiday Tales* (RAH Productions), Dec. 17

Comedy & Performance Art

- Comic Jim Dailakis, Dec. 2–4
- *The Mirror of Simple Souls* opera installation, Dec. 7–10
- Comic Bill Thomas, Dec. 9–11
- Comic Kirkland Teeple, Dec. 16–18
- Comic Chris Zito, Dec. 29 & 30
- Comic Wayne Cotter, Dec. 31

Festivals, Fairs, & Shows

- St. Nicholas Light Display at Domino's Farms, daily
- Holiday bazaars, fairs, & sales, Dec. 2–5, 8–11, 15, 16, & 26
- Christmas Creche Display, Dec. 3–6
- "A Holiday Evening in Saline," Dec. 3
- Chelsea Festival of Lights, Dec. 3–5
- Cobblestone Farm Country Christmas, Dec. 3 & 5
- "Festive Friday Holiday Nights" on Main Street, Dec. 3, 10, & 17
- Concordia College Boar's Head Festival, Dec. 3–5
- Dexter Victorian Christmas, Dec. 4 & 11
- Waterloo Farm Museum German Christmas, Dec. 4 & 5
- Kempf House German Family Christmas, Dec. 4, 5, 11, & 12
- Depot Town "Holiday Home Tour," Dec. 5
- Ypsilanti Historical Museum Victorian Christmas, Dec. 5
- U-M Kwanzaa Celebration, Dec. 10
- Midwest Collie Club Specialty Show, Dec. 11
- Anthroposophical Society Christmas Festival, Dec. 18
- Ypsilanti New Year Jubilee, Dec. 31

Conferences & Forums

- U-M AIDS Awareness Week, Dec. 1–4
- U-M "(Re)Constructing Berlin" symposium, Dec. 5

Lectures & Readings

- Sexuality guru Dr. Ruth, Dec. 1
- Fiction writers Amanda Davis & Ken Foster, Dec. 1
- Nigerian poet Wole Soyinka, Dec. 2
- Fiction writers Jaimy Gordon and Bonnie Campbell, Dec. 3
- U-M astronomer Robbie Dohm-Palmer, Dec. 4 & 11
- Poet & fiction writer Lyn Coffin, Dec. 6
- Former astronaut Jack Lousma, Dec. 14
- Roman Catholic bishop Carl Mengeling, Dec. 22

Family & Kids' Stuff

- *Charlotte's Web* (Wild Swan Theater), Dec. 1–5
- *A Woman Called Truth* (EMU Theater of the Young), Dec. 3 & 4
- Children's Holiday Parade, Dec. 5
- Shari Kane & Ray Kamalay family concert, Dec. 5
- "Sing-Along with Santa" (Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra), Dec. 11
- *Aesop's Fables* (Theaterworks USA), Dec. 12
- *Meet Me in St. Louis* (Young People's Theater), Dec. 16–19

Miscellaneous

- Washtenaw Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count, Dec. 18

"Only in Ann Arbor" Event of the Month

- "End of the Millennium Poetry Explosion," Dec. 10

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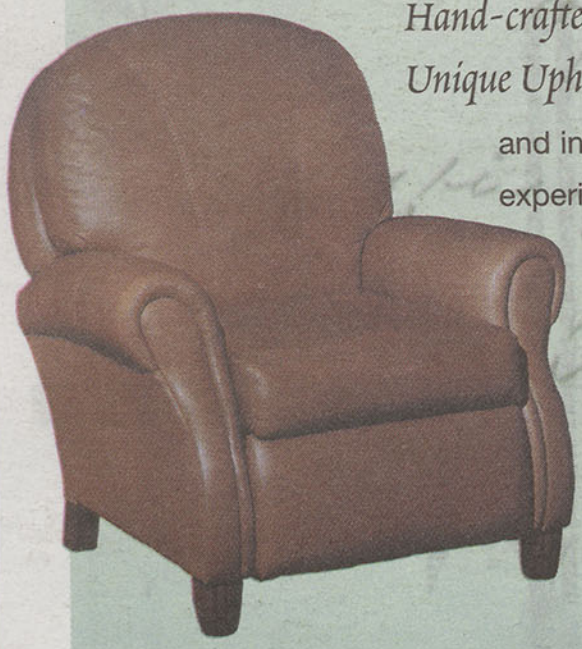

Monday, Thursday & Friday
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9:30am to 6pm

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